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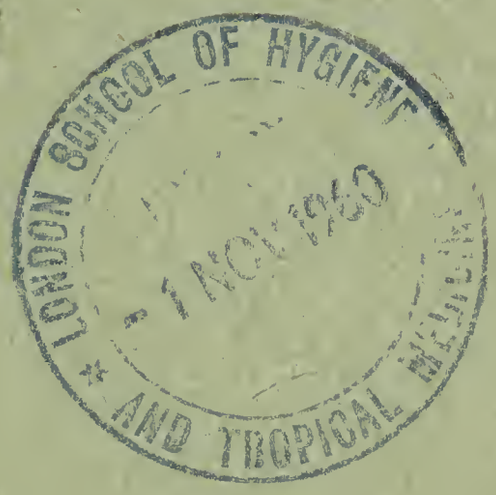

THE HEALTH OF WALSALL 1959

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WALSALL

COUNTY BOROUGH

HEALTH REPORT

1959

THOMAS ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and
Principal School Medical Officer

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

From May, 1959, to May, 1960

CHAIRMAN:
Alderman E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Councillor D. M. Middleton

Alderman R. Davies
Alderman B. E. Hemmings
Alderman M. J. Kavanagh, M.C.
Alderman A. McShane
Councillor R. H.M. Baines
Councillor N. Daniel
Councillor H. S. Gwinnutt
Councillor L. B. Parkes
Councillor A. M. M. Taylor
Councillor E. M. Thomas

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:
Councillor F. F. Harrison

VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Councillor M. C. Jarvis, J.P.

Alderman E. A. Brockhurst, J.P.
Alderman A. McShane
Alderman T. P. Riley, J.P.
Councillor J. R. R. Benton
Councillor W. Clarke
Councillor E. M. Flint
Councillor H. S. Gwinnutt
Councillor P. H. Musgrove
Councillor A. M. M. Taylor
Councillor C. L. Tomkinson
Councillor A. V. Townsend
Councillor S. Wright
Mrs. V. G. Parkes
Mrs. M. Talbot
Rev. J. M. Furness, B.D.
Very Rev. Canon J. W. Dunne, M.A.
Rev. V. S. Nicholls
Mr. R. S. Hawkins
Mr. A. W. Lester
Mr. L. Brockhurst

STAFF

(at 31st December, 1959)

Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer	Thomas Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	G. P. A. Evans, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H
Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare	I. M. Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H M.M.S.A., D.R.C.O.G., D.C.H.
Assistant Medical Officers of Health	S. J. Toogood, M.B., B.S. W. I. McNeilly, M.B., Ch.B.
Principal School Dental Officer	R. E. Morgan, L.D.S.
School Dental Officer	Mrs. I. M. Millar, L.D.S.
Chief Public Health Inspector	C. A. Stansbury.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector	E. Bayley.
Staff	12 Public Health Inspectors. (11 Full-time, 1 Part time). 4 Pupil Public Health Inspectors. 7 Clerks.
Public Analyst	C. N. Grange, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Deputy Public Analyst	R. K. Chalmers, B.Sc., F.R.I.C.
Superintendent Health Visitor	Miss G. Johnson.
Staff	12 Health Visitors. 1 Acting Health Visitor. 1 Pupil Health Visitor. 1 Tuberculosis Visitor. 3 Clinic Nurses (Part-time). 3 School Nurses.
Supervisor of Midwives ...	Mrs. M. E. Smith.
Staff	15 Municipal Midwives.
Lady Supt.—Home Nursing ...	Miss R. E. Bennion.
Staff	11 District Nurses—Full-time. 3 District Nurses—Part-time.
Administrative Assistant ...	H. D. Parsons.
Staff	11 Clerks (9 Full-time, 2 Part-time 4 Sales Clerks—Part-time.
Duly Authorised Officer (Mental Health Service) ...	F. H. Parker. 1 part-time Deputy.
Senior Mental Welfare Officer	Miss F. Grant. 1 Assistant.
Supervisor Occupation Centre	Miss E. Ratford. 2 Assistants.
Social Case Worker	Mrs. J. M. Thompson.
Matrons—Day Nurseries ...	Mrs. N. Clark. Mrs. C. Morton.
Ambulance Supervisor	H. J. Addison.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Walsall.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report on the health of the County Borough of Walsall during the year 1959.

Although during the year we were able to maintain a high volume of work by the staff, we again ended the year below establishment on the medical side. The usual statistics given in the report reveal that unfortunately Walsall tends to lag behind the country as a whole particularly in regard to stillbirths, neo-natal deaths and maternal mortality. We are satisfied that there is no lack of facilities and skill in the obstetric field but, intensified efforts must be made to persuade by education everyone concerned to make full use of them. It is pleasing to note a further decline in the mortality from tuberculosis, in particular the fact that no woman or child died from this disease during the year. Now that there is a smaller demand for the rehousing of tuberculous families greater consideration can be given to the rehousing of families from slum property, long overdue in many instances. Here unfortunately the diminished rate of building limits the pace at which rehousing can be effected.

Co-operation with the other branches of the National Health Service continues to improve with corresponding benefit to the consumer and the advent of your Family Case Worker has been widely

welcomed by everyone concerned in the avoidance of breakdown of the family. It is felt that an early expansion of this work is fully justified.

In conclusion I wish to place on record my appreciation of the support given by the Chairman and members of the Health Committee and to thank the staff of the department for their efforts during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,

Council House,

Walsall.

Telephone No. 26561-3.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, 1959

Area in Acres	8,777
Number of Structurally Separate Dwellings (At Census 1951)	31,380
Population 1959 (estimated)	115,100
Rateable Value (1/4/60)	£1,360,352
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1960/61)	£5,525
Live Births:—	
Number (M., 1,014 F. 888)	1,902
Rate per 1,000 population	16.52
do. (standardised)	15.69
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births ...	5.36
Stillbirths:—	
Number (M. ,31 F., 29)	60
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	30.58
Total Live and Still Births (M., 1,045 F., 917) ...	1,962
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) (M.,46 F., 19) ...	65
Infant Mortality Rates:—	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...	34.17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	33.33
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	49.02
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	22.08
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	18.40
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	48.42
Maternal Mortality (including abortion):—	
Number of deaths	2
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	1.02
Deaths:—	
Number (M., 710 F., 573)	1,283
Rate per 1,000 population	11.15
do. (standardised)	13.60

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The upward trend of the population of Walsall over the last five years is shown below: —

1955	...	...	114,600
1956	...	...	114,700
1957	...	...	114,800
1958	...	...	115,000
1959	...	...	115,100

Live and Still-births

The number of births in the Borough during 1959 decreased by 222 as compared with 1958, resulting in a rate decrease of 1.95 per thousand population. The birth rate of 16.52 per thousand population is the same as the figure for Engand and Wales. 60 still-births occurred to Walsall women, giving a rate per thousand live and still-births of 30.58.

Deaths

There were 1,283 deaths of Walsall residents during 1959, giving a death rate of 11.15 per thousand population, as compared with 10.18 in 1958. Following the normal pattern, heart disease was the principal cause of death, nearly one third of the total deaths being due to this cause. 177 persons died from cancer during the year.

Infant Deaths

Seven more children under one year of age died during 1959 as compared with 1958, giving a rate of 34.17 per thousand live births, as compared with 27.31. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 22.0.

It is again significant that 65 per cent of the deaths in this young age group occurred during the first four weeks of life, 42 out of 65 dying during this period. It will be seen from the table relating to infant mortality that more than half the infant deaths were due to prematurity and congenital malformations, again illustrating the need for the highest standard of ante-natal care.

Maternal Deaths

There were again two deaths associated with pregnancy during the year, giving a rate of 1.02 per thousand births, as compared with 0.38 for England and Wales.

Coroner's Inquests

The number of deaths reported to the Coroner during the year was 290 (184 males and 106 females).

Deaths investigated by the Coroner but no inquest held 165

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS ordered by Coroner 272

VERDICTS RETURNED AT INQUESTS:—

	M.	F
Death by Murder	—	—
,, ,, Suicide	9	5
,, ,, Manslaughter	—	—
,, ,, Self-induced Abortion	—	—
,, ,, Neglect	—	—
,, ,, Want of attention at Birth ...	—	—
,, ,, Want, Exposure, etc.	—	—
,, ,, Accident or Misadventure	34	26
Death from Natural Causes	16	5
Death from Industrial Diseases	21	—
Stillborn	—	—
Open Verdicts	4	—
	*84	36

6 deaths reported during the year will be dealt with in 1960 verdicts.

* Includes verdict on 1 death reported in 1958.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN WALSALL COUNTY BOROUGH 1959

As furnished by the Registrar-General

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	0–	1–	5–	15–	25–	45–	65–	75–
ALL CAUSES	M.	710	46	3	7	11	29	229	196	189
	F.	573	19	1	2	5	21	118	138	269
1. Tuberculosis—Respiratory	M.	13	—	—	—	—	1	9	3	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis—Other	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	M.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4. Diphtheria	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	M.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M.	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	M.	22	—	—	—	—	1	11	7	3
	F.	18	—	—	—	—	—	8	6	4
11. „ „ Lung, Bronchus	M.	52	—	—	—	—	—	31	13	8
	F.	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1
12. „ „ Breast	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	22	—	—	—	—	2	9	5	6
13. „ „ Uterus	F.	5	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.	51	—	—	—	1	6	15	14	15
	F.	46	—	—	—	—	—	20	18	8
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	M.	3	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
	F.	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2

16.	Diabetes	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
		F.	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	M.	58	—	—	—	—	2	13	13	30
		F.	81	—	—	—	—	1	12	23	45
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	M.	119	—	—	—	—	2	40	47	30
		F.	78	—	—	—	—	—	12	19	47
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	M.	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	7
		F.	22	—	—	—	—	—	5	9	8
20.	Other Heart Disease	M.	68	—	—	—	—	3	14	14	37
		F.	102	—	—	—	2	2	13	19	66
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	M.	23	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	9
		F.	20	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	12
22.	Influenza	M.	27	—	—	—	—	—	12	13	2
		F.	15	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	6
23.	Pneumonia	M.	43	9	—	—	—	1	11	8	14
		F.	27	2	—	—	—	—	3	6	16
24.	Bronchitis	M.	66	1	—	—	—	—	26	29	10
		F.	17	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	6
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	M.	8	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2
		F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	M.	11	—	—	—	—	—	8	1	2
		F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	M.	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	M.	11	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	3
		F.	7	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	M.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	F.	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	M.	14	10	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
		F.	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases ..	M.	53	21	—	1	—	2	11	8	10
		F.	62	10	—	—	1	5	11	11	24
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	M.	19	—	—	2	8	2	3	1	3
		F.	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
34.	All Other Accidents	M.	13	1	—	1	1	1	4	2	3
		F.	17	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	12
35.	Suicide	M.	7	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—
		F.	5	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War ..	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1959

Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One year of age

Causes of Death	Total Deaths under 1 year	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 & under 3 months	3 & under 6 months	6 & under 9 months	9 & under 12 months	Bloxwich	Leamore	Blakenall	Birchills	Hatherton	Paddock	Bridge	Pleck	Caldmore	Palfrey
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Premature Birth	20	20	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	1	3	1	1	2	3	2
Congenital Malformations ..	13	4	2	1	—	7	3	3	—	—	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	—	2	1
Infant Diseases	4	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	2	1	—	—	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	2
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents	4	—	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Causes	7	6	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
Totals	65	35	6	1	—	42	6	10	5	2	8	10	9	3	4	3	5	8	7	8

Nett Births in the Year — Legitimate, 1800 ; Illegitimate, 102.
Nett Deaths in the Year of Legitimate Infants, 60 ; Illegitimate Infants, 5.

SECTION B

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

117 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as compared with 118 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Measles

1,432 cases of Measles were notified during the year, an increase as compared with last year's figure of 1,015.

Whooping Cough

526 cases of Whooping Cough were notified as compared with 214. There were no deaths.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia

269 cases were notified as compared with 156. There were 70 deaths from this cause during the year, an increase of 22 as compared with 1958. Influenza accounted for 42 deaths as compared with 12 in the previous year.

Dysentery

71 cases of Dysentery were notified as compared with 52 during 1958.

Food Poisoning

22 cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

There were 2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year. After treatment the vision was unimpaired and the infants made a good recovery.

Other Diseases

10 cases of Erysipelas, and 2 cases of Meningococcal Infection were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

The following report has been supplied by Dr. J. N. Macartney, a Chest Physician of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, who is in charge of the Walsall Chest Clinic which deals with cases of tuberculosis. Dr. Macartney is also responsible to the Walsall Council in all matters relating to environmental conditions of tuberculosis cases in the borough. The report deals with this aspect of his work only.

Death Rates per 1,000 population with comparative figures fo England and Wales: —

		1958	1959
WALSALL: —			
Respiratory tuberculosis	...	0.104	0.113
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	0.018	—
ENGLAND AND WALES: —			
Respiratory tuberculosis	...	0.089	0.077
Other forms of tuberculosis	...	0.011	0.008

Deaths from tuberculosis in Walsall during 1959 show a slight fal but the most striking fact that emerges is that for the first time, no woman or child in the Borough died from any form of tuberculosis during the year under review.

This finding offers encouragement that eventually the male death rate may also be eliminated. Our local problem is a reflection of the national one, however, and it is probable that males, especially the elderly, for several decades will continue to show a definite mortality to tuberculosis. The Black Country has had a distressingly high incidence for all respiratory diseases and although conditions now are incomparably better, the health of many elderly males has been undermined in the past. Atmospheric pollution must be eliminated without delay.

There has been a further decline in the notification of newly discovered cases of tuberculosis involving lungs and other parts of the body from 103 to 73. This fall in the figures for 1959 affects both sexes.

During the year 194 contacts, mainly children, were vaccinated against tuberculosis.

Venereal Diseases

The Venereal Diseases Clinic is situated at Manor Hospital, Walsall, the Hospital Management Committee being responsible for the work carried out at the clinic.

We are, however, still concerned with the incidence of Venereal Disease in the town and continue to work in close co-operation with the Venereologist.

The table on page 14 shows the work of the Venereal Diseases Clinic during the year.

Scabies Treatment

The Scabies Clinic at Hatherton Road is still maintained and during the year the number of cases attending increased as compared with the previous year.

During the year 8 men, 6 women and 32 children received treatment, these cases making a total number of 103 attendances for this purpose.

Cleansing of Persons

Cleansing of unclean persons was carried out at the Cleansing Station at the Ambulance Station in Hatherton Road and during the year 8 persons were treated.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1959

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole district													Total Cases Notified in Each ward									
		At Ages—Years																					
	At All Ages	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Bloxwich Ward	Leamore Ward	Blakenall Ward	Birchills Ward	Hatherton Ward	Paddock Ward	Bridge Ward	Pleck Ward	Caldmore Ward	Palfrey Ward
Small-Pox.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas.. ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	5	1	3	1	—	1	2	1	—	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever ..	117	—	6	5	10	12	77	5	1	1	—	—	—	34	8	14	9	17	18	1	9	7	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1432	59	170	187	205	190	603	16	1	1	—	—	—	324	161	215	101	181	41	39	170	69	131
Whooping Cough..	526	40	69	72	69	64	200	8	1	2	1	—	—	164	68	89	46	31	11	21	43	14	39
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—

Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	269	20	4	5	5	3	12	4	7	19	29	108	53	30	39	43	10	23	31	11	33	29	20
Dysentery ..	71	2	5	3	2	4	19	4	11	8	6	2	5	16	16	16	5	12	3	2	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ..	22	2	1	1	—	1	1	3	4	2	1	6	—	—	6	6	1	1	1	—	4	2	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	69	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	16	14	11	21	4	5	8	11	9	3	13	6	5	1	8
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	2524	127	255	273	291	274	915	41	42	51	50	142	63	578	307	394	182	271	120	83	266	123	200

TABLE SHOWING THE WORK OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC DURING THE YEAR 1959

	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number of cases on Register 1st January, 1959 ..	45	32	45	14	87	87	177	133	310
Number of old cases returned for treatment or observation of same infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Number of new cases dealt with for the first time ..	13	12	75	13	150	231	238	256	494
Number of new cases transferred from other centres ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total cases dealt with	58	45	120	27	237	318	415	390	805
Attendances—Medical examinations	780	290	690	87	3268	672	4738	1049	5787
Irrigation, dressings	211	111	90	22	1691	1193	1992	1326	3318
Total attendances	991	401	780	109	4959	1865	6730	2375	9105
Number of new cases attending during 1959									
Walsall	23		72		208		303		303
Other areas	2		16		173		191		191

Pathological Work —	Microscopical		Cultural	Serum		Cerebro Spinal Fluid
	for Syphilis	Others		for Syphilis	Others	
Specimens examined at Walsall Treatment Centre	124	1597	449	—	—	—
Specimens examined at a Pathological Centre	—	—	—	860	820	—

SECTION C

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Dr. I. M. Brown, Senior Medical Officer of Health for Maternity ıd Child Welfare reports as follows upon the work in her section: —

" I am pleased to report that our Maternity and Child Welfare ervices have functioned efficiently throughout the year, despite affing deficiencies.

The infant mortality rate again rose from 27.31 to 34.17 per ıousand live births. The number of still births increased from 51 1958 to 60 during the year under review and investigation into 52 ill births shows that 58 per cent. were atributed to causes which ccurred during the pre-natal period, 30 per cent. during labour and in ıe remaining 6 per cent. the cause was unknown. Only 21 per cent. f the investigated stillbirths occurred on the district. It is still apparent ıat there is much work to be done in the ante-natal field.

There were again two maternal deaths during 1959, the same gure as in 1958.

52 per cent. of the births in the borough were delivered by district ıidwives employed by the local authority, representing a total of 35 domiciliary births. In addition the nursing of 757 mothers ischarged from maternity hospitals before the fourteenth day after onfinement was carried out.

At the time of writing, relaxation classes have been commenced t local authority clinics and expectant mothers are given the pportunity of attending. Instruction is given at these classes by ıurses and midwives on care during pregnancy. The benefits gained y young mothers from relaxation and mothercraft classes are ample eward for our efforts and we shall continue to search for ways and neans to improve Walsall's already efficient maternity services.

I feel that more mothers should take advantage of the services provided by the local authority; there is still room for improvement n attendances at infant welfare clinics—the advice given at these sessions to nursing mothers by staff specially trained for this purpose s invaluable, particularly to mothers with their first baby.

Good co-operation with hospitals and general practitioners has continued throughout the year, an essential factor to ensure the wellbeing of the expectant mother, a point which was stressed in the recent Cranbrook Report.

The dental service for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age is also much appreciated, and the number of women and children accepting treatment shows a tendency to increase.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against whooping cough, diphtheria and poliomyelitis is available at all child welfare centres."

Ante and Post-Natal Clinics

The following table shows the attendances at the authority's Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics during the year: —

	Pool Street		Field Road		Countess Street		Ida Road		Littleton Street		Beechdale		Total	
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.
Ante-natal Cases	308	243	1241	647	723	556	297	218	800	601	345	235	3714	2500
Ante-natal New Cases	112		458		225		90		278		106		1269	
Post-natal Cases	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Post-natal New Cases	1		–		–		–		–		–		1	

A.—Attendances. M.—Medical Examinations.

Child Welfare Centres

There are seven Child Welfare Centres in Walsall at which twelve sessions are held weekly attended by a doctor and health visitors. There are no special consultant clinics, children requiring specialist opinion being referred to one of the general hospitals in the town. No arrangements have been made for joint clinics with general practitioners in their own premises. Whilst attendances are not as satisfactory as we would like, nevertheless they must be accounted reasonably good taking into account the services provided by general practitioners under the health service.

Beechdale Clinic is now well established and the attendances are most encouraging. At the time of writing plans are well ahead for the erection of a similar clinic to serve the residents of Coalpool, which we hope will be opened early in 1961.

The following table shows attendances in age groups at Child Welfare Centres during the year: —

Centre	Under 6 months		6—12 months		1—2 years		2—5 years		Total		New Cases
	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	A.	M.	
Pool St.	1747	561	1137	353	501	132	324	144	3709	1190	242
F'ld Rd.	2340	585	1515	359	567	103	354	76	4776	1123	349
L'ton St.	1476	707	767	389	343	170	275	102	2861	1368	233
C'tess St.	2511	850	1476	495	789	153	545	92	5321	1590	295
Ida Rd.	1320	517	697	259	324	96	312	90	2653	962	168
Beechdale	803	299	535	165	87	24	103	33	1528	521	149
D'dley's Fields'	788	296	665	287	340	70	162	74	1955	727	157
Totals	10985	3815	6792	2307	2951	748	2075	611	22803	7481	1593

A.—Attendances. M.—Medical Examinations

Provision of Foods

Various types of proprietary baby foods, National Dried Milk, orange juice and cod liver oil are available at all child welfare sessions and five part-time women are employed on the work of distribution. The following table shows the types and amounts of foods sold during the year: —

33,507	tins	Full Cream National Dried Milk.
88	tins	Half Cream National Dried Milk.
8,769	bottles	Cod Liver Oil.
6,564	pkts.	Vitamin Tablets.
60,666	bottles	Orange Juice.
4,200	lb.	Cow and Gate Dried Milk.
10,948	lb.	Ostermilk.
1,139	lb.	Trufood.
160	tins	S.M.A.
228	tins	Carnation Milk.
1,316	tubs	Virol.
3,753	tins	Ovaltine.
147	lb.	Malt and Oil.
1,364	pkts.	Farex.
881	pkts.	Scotts Cereal Infant Food.
304	pkts.	Groats.
281	pkts.	Robrex.

Dental Treatment

The Council's proposals under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act provide for every expectant mother to be examined by a dental practitioner following her first attendance at an ante-natal clinic, for the periodic examination of children under the age of five years and for the necessary treatment to be provided where required, particular attention being paid to conservative treatment.

During the year 65 dental sessions were devoted to maternity and child welfare patients. 87 expectant and nursing mothers were examined and 79 were found to require treatment. 64 of these patients attended the Dental Clinic and at the end of the year 48 cases had completed their course of attendances. 31 complete dentures and 16 partial dentures were provided. 146 children under the age of 5 years were examined and 64 were found to need treatment, 51 of whom were treated and made dentally fit.

Maternity Outfits

Maternity outfits were distributed to all expectant mothers confined at home, through municipal midwives, and during the year 1,052 outfits were issued.

Unmarried Mothers and Children

The Walsall County Borough is a constituent authority of the Staffordshire County Council Scheme for the care of illegitimate children and their mothers.

36 cases in which illegitimate births occurred in 1959 have been dealt with by Sister Ellis and those are reported on below. In addition, five cases in which births occurred prior to 1959 were helped in various ways including making plans for adoption and obtaining payments from putative fathers. 19 expectant mothers whose babies were due to be born in 1960 had the necessary arrangements made for their confinements. This makes a total of 60 cases under care at the end of the year.

18 mothers were accommodated in Diocesan Homes.
12 went into hospital for confinement.
6 remained in their own homes.

Three of the cases concerned married women, two of whom were divorced and one reconciled to her husband after her child had been adopted.

Two girls were married to the fathers of their babies.

Four Affiliation Orders were obtained and several putative fathers made contributions towards the cost of girls' maintenance in Diocesan Homes.

The ages of the mothers ranged between 15 and 38 years, as follows—1 of 15; 1 of 16; 3 of 17; 10 of 18; 3 of 19; 5 of 20, 1 of 21; 8 between 22 and 27; 2 between 28 and 34; and 2 between 35 and 38.

The ages of the putative fathers ranged between 18 and 45.

The babies were placed as follows: —

14 with mothers at home.
2 with parents married.
3 with mothers in Homes.
1 with parents co-habiting.
11 were adopted through the Association.
2 were placed for adoption by their mothers.
2 were stillborn.
There was one miscarriage.

Visits and interviews in connection with the 60 cases under care in 1959 number 605. In addition, the homes of prospective adopters have been vetted and reported on, girls conveyed to Homes and accompanied in Court.

Day Nurseries

Two Day Nurseries at Bescot Methodist School and Blakenall Congregational Church operated throughout the whole of 1959.

The new Central Day Nursery, which was opened early in 1960 on the closure of Bescot and Blakenall, satisfies the needs of the town and, of course, cuts expenditure by practically half.

The following table shows the average attendances at the nurseries during the year: —

Day Nursery	No. on Register at 31/12/59	Total No. of attendances	Average daily attendances
Bescot	16	2,961	12.1
Blakenall ...	15	2,314	9.5

Premature Infants

Notifications were received in respect of 170 infants whose birth weight was 5½lb. or under, a decrease of 19 over the previous year. In some casese the notifications applied to infants who, although the birth weight was 5½lb. or less, were really full-term, but these infants were given the same care as those prematurely born.

Of the 170 infants notified, 75 were born at home and 95 in hospital. Eight of the infants born at home were transferred to hospital. Two of the 67 infants nursed entirely at home died in the first 24 hours and 62 survived at the twenty-eighth day. Two of the eight infants who were born at home and transferred to hospital, died in the first 24 hours and two survived at the twenty-eighth day.

Eight of the 95 infants born in hospital died in the first 24 hours and 82 survived at the end of 28 days.

There were 24 notifications of premature still-births, 20 of these being born in hospital and four at home.

The hospital provision for the care of premature infants is adequate and premature infants are transferred to hospital whenever necessary. To those premature infants remaining at home, special nursing care is given by midwives and by the health visitors.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Staff

The midwifery staff consists of one Supervisor and 15 Midwives and the service is under the medical supervision of the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Work of the Municipal Midwives

During the year municipal midwives attended 935 confinements, representing 52 per cent. of the total births occurring in the borough. 597 births took place in Manor Hospital, 264 in Bloxwich Maternity Hospital and 145 outside the borough. 5,935 ante-natal visits and 757 visits to mothers discharged from maternity units before the fourteenth day after confinement were made by municipal midwives during 1959.

All midwives are qualified to administer analgesics, and during the year six gas and air outfits were in use on 485 occasions, Pethedine was administered to 560 patients and four sets of Trilene analgesic apparatus were used on 176 occasions.

Emergency Maternity Service

Arrangements are in force for the services of an emergency team of doctors and nurses from Manor Hospital with the necessary equipment, to attend complicated cases of labour on the district when required.

Night Relief Duty

It has not been found necessary to operate a rota system for night relief duty in Walsall. Relief, is, of course, provided during routine off-duty periods but generally midwives prefer to attend their own booked cases and this is arranged as far as possible. In many cases patients having booked a certain midwife who has attended them in previous confinements, resent a change in arrangements.

Pupil Midwives Training Scheme

In co-operation with the Manor Hospital, three pupils undertook district training in the department during 1959.

Refresher Courses

During the year the non-medical Supervisor of Midwives and one district midwife attended approved refresher courses.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service—1959

(including Nursing Homes)

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Nursing Homes	Totals
No. of Midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1959 (excluding Hospitals)—			
(*a*) Employed by the Council	1 Supervisor 15	— —	16
(*b*) In private practice ..	—	—	—
	16	—	16
	Domiciliary Cases	**Cases in Nursing Homes**	**Totals**
No. of cases in the Borough attended by Midwives—			
(*a*) Employed by the Council—			
(i) As Midwives	894	—	894
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	42	—	42
(*b*) In private practice —			
(i) As Midwives	—	—	—
(ii) As Maternity Nurses	—	—	—
TOTALS (i) As Midwives ..	894	—	894
TOTALS (ii) As Maternity Nurses	42	—	42

HEALTH VISITING

Staff

During the year the staffing position relating to health visitors has again shown a slight improvement and three trainee health visitors, having obtained their health visitors' certificates were appointed to the department's health visiting staff. The staff at the end of the year consisted of one superintendent health visitor, 12 health visitors, one acting health visitor, one tuberculosis visitor, three clinic nurses (part-time) and three school nurses. At the time of writing one student health visitor is awaiting entry to the Birmingham Training Course and meanwhile is employed in the department.

Work of the Health Visitors

Health visitors are required to undertake visitation for the purpose of general supervision in connection with the care of mothers and young children. The service has, however, extended from year to year and now covers the general care and the health education of the household as a whole, special attention being given to the care of old people. The work of the health visitor, therefore, covers not only the supervision and welfare of young children, but is concerned generally with the prevention of illness and care and after-care of all members of the family. As pointed out under the Mental Welfare Section of this Report health visitors also carry out the after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals.

The accompanying table gives details of health visiting and tuberculosis visiting during 1959:—

Health Visiting and Tuberculosis Visiting during 1959

HEALTH VISITORS										TUBERCULOSIS VISITORS
Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuberculous Households	Other Cases	Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors	Total visits paid to tuberculous households
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits		
8,231	1,294	1,855 *147	1,873	12,508 *2,176	7,616 *804	13,208 *1,416	— —	10,034 *1,031	10,913	1,574 *62

Figures marked with an asterisk are "No access" visits.

Liason

I am pleased to report that arrangements were made during the year for two health visitors to attend the Pædiatrician's Out-patient Clinic at the Manor Hospital. In October two health visitors commenced attendance for three visits per week, one being permitted to accompany the Pædiatrician on his ward round of the Baby Unit. This has been a most important addition to our already good liason with the hospital services.

The liason between the Diabetic Clinic at the General Hospital and the health visitors has continued during the year, two health visitors being seconded to the collaborative work. The health visitors attend the Diabetic Clinic at the hospital, one each on alternate weeks, and follow up cases in their own homes as required by the consultant physician. Advice and assistance is given in the home to diabetic patients regarding their diet, insulin-therapy, and any other matter in which the patient might need assistance.

As a part of their training, second and third year student nurses from the local hospitals are given two lectures by the Superintendent Health Visitor concerning the public health aspect of their course. Following upon these lectures the nurses are given practical instruction on the district, a feature which is most enlightening and much appreciated. Lectures are also given by the Superintendent Health Visitor to student nurses at the Preliminary Training School.

There is a good relationship between the health visitors and general practitioners in Walsall and, as a means of furthering this, a sherry party organised by the local authority medical and health visiting staff took place at Beechdale Clinic on an evening in October to which Walsall general practitioners were invited. The function was most successful.

General

A considerable amount of work was carried out by health visitors during the year on a poliomyelitis virus investigation amongst normal children between six months and four years of age, which involved calling upon families co-operating in the survey to obtain stools for submission for laboratory examination.

During the year one health visitor attended a two weeks refresher course.

Geriatric Nursing

The three part-time geriatric nurses continued to carry out most useful work during the year. Many of the old folk are unaware of the facilities available to them, such as domestic help, meals on wheels, home nursing, etc., and the geriatric nurses are able to help and advise them in this respect. The old people look forward to the periodic visits of the nurses which help to alleviate their loneliness and give them a feeling that they are not forgotten.

HOME NURSING

Staff

The home nursing staff at the end of 1959 consisted of one Lady Superintendent, 11 full-time and three part-time nurses. The staff is still below establishment, but the additional use of cars has permitted the requirements of the service to be covered adequately.

Work of the District Nurses

There is no doubt that the home nursing service relieves a great dealt of pressure on hospital accommodation. Cases are discharged from hospital much earlier in the full knowledge that a skilled nursing service is available to them in their own homes. Co-operation with general practitioners is essential to maintain the efficient running of the home nursing service and this has always been forthcoming in Walsall.

The statistical table showing the number of cases attended and visits paid by district nurses during 1959 again indicates that a large proportion of patients attended were over 65 years of age, practically 66 per cent being in this age group.

In conjunction with adjoining county boroughs and Staffordshire County Council it is hoped to set up a training school for district nurses in Walsall. Plans are well ahead for this scheme and it is anticipated that the first course will commence at Walsall Technical College in September 1960.

Cases attended and visits paid by Home Nursing Staff during 1959

	Medical	Surgical	Infectious Diseases	Tuber-culosis	Maternal Compli-cations	Others	Totals	Patients included in (2)-(7) who were 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year	Children included in (2)-(7) who were under 5 at the time of the first visit during the year	Patients included in (2)-(7) who have had more than 24 visits during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
ases	783	82	—	72	1	139	1,077	664	5	398
isits	31,553	2,870	—	3,886	7	3,127	41,443	27,611	106	35,609

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination against Smallpox

Vaccination against smallpox is carried out at infant welfare clinics or by general practitioners. During the year 914 primary vaccinations against smallpox were carried out, 568 by doctors at child welfare centres and 346 by general practitioners. There were 44 successful re-vaccinations and 42 attempts at vaccination or re-vaccination proved unsuccessful.

The following table shows the ages at vaccination and re-vaccination: —

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 years and over	Total
Vaccinated ...	815	31	20	16	32	914
Re-vaccinated ...	—	—	—	5	39	44

It will be noted that 815 infants under one year were vaccinated out of 1902 live births, indicating that only 43 per cent. of children born during the year were protected against smallpox. It is essential that all parents should ensure that their children receive this protection as early as possible.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Diphtheria immunisation is carried out at child welfare centres, day nurseries, school clinics and by general practitioners. Visits are also made to schools for the purpose of immunisation and the administration of booster doses. The following table shows the number of children immunised each year by age groups:—

Year immunised	Under 5	5-14	Total	No. of children given re-inforcing injection	Cases of Diphtheria notified
1959	1188	1261	2449	1365	—
1958	1094	111	1205	36	—
1957	1037	1294	2331	1158	—
1956	746	1140	1886	774	—
1955	822	988	1810	678	1
1954	856	1027	1883	795	—
1953	858	899	1757	879	—
1952	906	898	1804	1273	—
1951	825	888	1713	1228	2
1950	570	956	1526	1413	2
1949	1171	1167	2338	2111	3
1948	1224	1238	2462	4314	3
1947	1089	725	1814	333	14
1946	957	1104	2061	598	18
1945	1144	1409	2553		34
Total	14487	15105	29592	16955	77

It will be noted that during 1959, 1,188 children under the age of five years and 1,261 between five and 14 years were immunised, and 1,365 were given a reinforcing injection. Of the total, 499 were immunised and 32 given reinforcing doses by general practitioners under the Authority's scheme, the remainder being immunised by the Local Health Authority's own doctors. The following table shows the number of children on 31st December, 1959, who had completed the course of immunisation at any time since 1st January, 1945.

Age at 31.12.59 ...	Under 1	1—4	5—9	10—14	Under 15
i.e., Born in year ...	1959	1955—1958	1950—1954	1945—1949	Total
Last course of injections (whether primary or booster) A. 1955—1959 ...	185	3,307	6,397	3,123	13.012
B. 1954 or earlier	—	—	922	7,522	8,444
C. Estimated mid-year child population	1,960	7,540	19,200		28,700
Immunity Index 100 A/C.	9.4	43.9	49.6		45.3

Again it will be seen that less than 50 per cent. of children under 15 years of age are protected against diphtheria. Parents are inclined to become complacent in view of the rarity of cases of diphtheria, but it must be stressed that to maintain such a state we must have a high level of immunisation.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

In June 1959 our official scheme for immunisation against whooping cough was approved by the Ministry of Health. General practitioners have, however, been using combined whooping cough and diphtheria vaccine for some time.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations carried out during 1959: —

	Single		Combined		Total
	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	0-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	
At Child Welfare Centres	743	1	—	—	744
By General Practitioners	23	3	331	3	360
Total	766	4	331	3	1,104

Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis

The following table shows the number of injections against poliomyelitis given during 1959: —

Group	First Injections	Second Injections	Third Injections
Children born 1943-59	4,653	6,716	11,536
Young persons born 1933-42	6,394	6,126	1,351
Expectant Mothers	730	685	307
General Practitioners and families ... ... Ambulance Staffs and families ... ... Hospital Staffs, Medical Students and their families	70	57	143
Totals ...	11,847	13,584	13,337

Great efforts were made during the year to encourage the adult group to take advantage of poliomyelitis vaccination facilities by means of open sessions and visits to factories and places of work. By the end of the year approximately 30 per cent of this age group had received two injections.

B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination was introduced as a regular feature of the authority's vaccination and immunisation programme in May, such facilities being offered to the 13 year age group. In September we were permitted by the Ministry of Health to introduce a scheme to take in all school children over the age of 13 years, including students attending the Technical College. Skin tests were carried out by the Heaf Gun method and negative reactors were offered vaccination. Children with strongly positive skin tests were referred to the tuberculosis health visitor for investigation.

The following table shows the work done in connection with B.C.G. vaccination during the year.

	School children under 14 years of age	School children 14 years and upwards	Contact Scheme
Number skin tested	1,574	527	224
Number found positive	150	46	23
Number found negative	1,374	452	191
Number vaccinated	1,374	452	194

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Vehicles

The fleet at the end of 1959 consisted of eight ambulances and six sitting case vehicles. During the year one sitting case vehicle was disposed of and one new ambulance and one sitting case vehicle were delivered in July and August respectively.

Radio telephony is now used in most vehicles and it has come to be regarded as an essential part of the service. There is no doubt that wireless transmission greatly increases the efficiency of the service, particularly in cases of accident, when time is vital.

Staff

The Ambulance staff at the end of the year consisted of one Ambulance Supervisor, one Assistant Supervisor and 24 Ambulance Drivers, three of whom are women. All members of the staff have successfully passed the St. John examination and refresher courses are arranged as necessary. Arrangements are in hand for the newcomers to attend the first available course of lectures for the St. John Certificate.

Work of the Ambulance Service

There has been a further slight increase in the number of cases carried by ambulance during the year, 34,772 patients being conveyed as against 34,034 in 1958. The mileage run during the year has decreased slightly to 147,880, as against 148,586 in 1958. The following summary shows the work done during the year: —

Calls	29,943
Journeys	12,091
Cases	34,772
Mileage	147,880

The ambulance staff continue to be responsible for the conveyance of bodies to the mortuary at the request of the Borough Coroner.

The following table shows the work carried out during the year:—

Month	CALLS	JOURNEYS										CASES									MILEAGE	
		Illness		Emergency		Other		Abortive and Service		Midwives, Home Nurses Analgesia Apparatus etc.		Illness			Emergency			Other				
		AMB:	S.C.A.	AMB:	S.C.A.	AMB:	S.C.A.	AMB:	S.C.A.	AMB:	S.C.A.	AMBULANCE		S.C.A.	AMBULANCE		S.C.A.	AMBULANCE		S.C.A.	AMB.	S.C.A.
												Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases		Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases		Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases			
Jan.	2389	417	431	118	—	122	—	54	19	20	45	659	315	2020	122	—	—	122	—	—	6393	7417
Feb.	2262	323	375	93	—	121	—	27	25	—	67	496	710	2094	93	—	—	121	—	—	5103	6470
March	2474	235	494	94	—	14	—	57	16	20	52	628	209	1860	94	9	—	14	—	—	4186	7707
April	2767	212	489	105	—	14	—	32	23	36	59	678	219	1822	111	—	—	14	—	—	5013	7715
May	2271	219	470	122	—	14	—	46	8	17	66	712	320	1263	129	—	—	14	—	—	5153	7727
June	2222	267	478	104	3	11	—	54	7	8	72	736	294	1900	104	3	—	11	—	—	5033	7442
July	3110	277	460	134	—	14	—	39	11	24	87	735	326	1959	137	2	—	10	4	—	6165	7764
Aug.	2685	173	466	119	—	9	7	48	—	46	56	751	78	1687	122	—	—	9	7	—	4472	6443
Sept.	2467	207	492	111	—	12	—	40	14	33	56	619	337	1757	115	—	—	12	—	—	4042	7315
Oct.	2456	269	474	130	—	12	—	36	12	31	62	682	278	1775	135	—	—	12	—	—	4709	7671
Nov.	2351	284	465	114	—	14	3	41	14	30	32	672	420	1507	119	—	—	14	3	—	4513	8128
Dec.	2489	271	399	125	—	17	—	40	16	41	49	638	412	1396	129	—	—	17	—	—	4777	6522
Total	29943	3154	5493	1369	3	374	10	514	165	306	703	8006	3918	21040	1410	14	—	370	14	—	59559	88321

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Sick-room Appliances Service

Sick-room appliances are available at the Ambulance Station for issue to patients on loan on the recommendation of the hospital, family doctor, district nurse or health visitor.

During the year the following articles were issued: —

Rubber sheets ...	177	Urinals	111
Back rests ...	228	Sputum cups ...	5
Feeding cups ...	19	Air rings ...	156
Crutches ...	14 prs.	Wheel chairs ...	86
Walking sticks ...	23	Air beds ...	2
Bed cradles ...	41	Bedpans ...	288
Bed tables ...	5	Spinal carriages ...	1
Commodes ...	22	Bed blocks ...	4

A small deposit is required for each article loaned out, which is refunded on the return of the article to the Ambulance Station.

It is noticeable that the number of items issued increases from year to year and it is possible that we may be faced with difficulties regarding storage space in due course, particularly in relation to large articles such as wheel chairs. There is obviously a genuine need for this service as is indicated by the increase in demand.

Milk Assistance Scheme

The Health Committee, implementing their proposals for the care and after-care of tuberculous patients, instituted a scheme, in conjunction with the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for the supply of milk to tuberculous patients. Broadly the scheme provides for the free issue of one pint of milk per day where the total weekly income does not exceed an amount specified in the Council's scale. The scale was modelled upon that prepared by the Association of Municipal Corporations and the arrangements so far appear to be reasonably adequate.

During the year nine patients, for varying periods, have been supplied with one pint of milk per day, free of charge. The total amount of milk supplied during the year was 304 gallons.

A grant of free milk is issued by the department upon the certificate of the Chest Physician. Close liaison is maintained between the Chest Physician who, of course, is an officer of the Regional Hospital Board, and this department. The officers of the Chest Clinic and of this department confer regularly upon the needs of tuberculous patients. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor has an office

at the Chest Clinic and works with the Chest Physician. Contact is thereby maintained between the tuberculous patients and other activities of the Health Department.

Milk is supplied through the patient's own registered milk retailer so that the patient is not put to any trouble to obtain milk from a special source, a benefit appreciated by the patients.

Tuberculosis After-Care

The Tuberculosis After-Care Committee is responsible, on behalf of the Council, for after-care for tuberculous patients. Extra assistance for the tuberculous patient in the form of additional food, change of air, clothing, better home conditions, extra beds and bedding, and more suitable occupation, are the Committee's main activities. The Committee has functioned for many years and has been of great help to a large number of patients. Mainly the funds are derived from voluntary sources, but the Council also makes a monetary grant to assist the Committee in its work.

The Committee makes arrangements for practical help to patients where necessary and a very considerable sum is distributed as Christmas gifts to all patients on the books. The Committee is well served by its honorary officers who have a long tradition of service behind them. There is a helpful liaison between the voluntary body and the Health Department and this ensures active co-operation at all times.

Prevention of Break-up of Families

We were fortunate enough to obtain the services of a Social Case-worker during the year, a woman with wide experience of work in connection with the supervision of problem families. She took up her duties in July and has already effected a marked improvement in cases referred from various sources such as Health Visitors, Children Department, Housing Department, Probation Officer, etc.

The Social Case-Worker keeps the " hard core " problem family under close and constant supervision and helps with the running of the home, budgeting, provision of furniture and clothing and in some cases assists in securing employment for the father of the family.

In many cases she has succeeded in holding the family together and so relieved the Council of considerable expense by preventing the necessity of children being taken into care. Again, hire purchase and other debts, including rent arrears have been greatly reduced by close supervision regarding budgeting.

The Social Case Worker was dealing with 25 families at the end of 1959, 10 of which were receiving intensive visitation consisting of three visits per week. In seven cases weekly visitation was being undertaken and the remainder only required occasional visiting. In 12 cases there was a definite improvement following the advice and assistance of the Social Case Worker and I understand that this improvement is being maintained.

Convalescent Treatment

Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, provides for the prevention of illness, care and after-care. Under these provisions the local authority may make arrangements to provide convalescent treatment for persons certified to require such treatment either by hospitals or by their medical practitioner. The convalescent treatment so provided shall not be given to persons needing medical care.

During the year 52 children received convalescent treatment, 48 for three weeks and four for two weeks at the Ormerod Convalescent Home, St. Annes-on-Sea, and four adults for two weeks, at convalescent homes at Blackpool, Clevedon and Exmouth.

The children's part of the scheme is run on similar lines to that operated by the Walsall Poor Children's Country Holiday Society and co-ordination of the two schemes is well established.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

Staff

Our policy during the year was to replace a number of full-time staff with part-timers, retaining full-time staff for cases requiring full-time service and for confinements. This, of course, enabled us to employ a larger number of helps. The demand for the service is such, however, that inevitably the establishment will have to be increased.

Work of the Domestic Helps

We have again covered a larger number of cases during the year under review, 467 persons having received help during 1959 as compared with 425 during 1958. Some ten years ago the number of cases attended was 151, an indication of the rapid growth of the service and a pointer to the likelihood of an even greater demand in the future.

Out of the 467 cases for which help was provided, 362 (78 per cent.) were chronic sick, including aged and infirm. It is obvious that the Domestic Help Service is fast becoming a service for the aged and it must be our earnest endeavour to meet their small but necessary needs by evenly spreading the service over a larger number of persons.

The following statistics show the work done by the domestic helps during the year: —

No. of Helps employed at 31st December 1959 ... (18 full-time, 51 part-time)	69
No. of confinement cases at which help was supplied	80
No. of tuberculosis cases at which help was supplied	3

No. of chronic sick (including aged and infirm) cases at which help was supplied	362
No. of other cases at which help was supplied ...	22
Total hours worked at confinement cases	6,606
Total hours worked at tuberculosis cases	1,389
Total hours worked at other cases	74,176

Training Courses

Arrangements were made with the Walsall Technical College during the year to hold a week's course for domestic helps, the syllabus of which included housewifery, cookery, child welfare and other subjects of value to domestic helps in their duties. The Committee permitted 12 full-time helps to attend the course, which was very much enjoyed and appreciated. It is hoped to arrange further courses at a later date.

MENTAL HEALTH

Administration and Staff

The administration of the Mental Health Service is carried out by the Health Committee, a special sub-committee having been formed to deal with cases of mental defectiveness, the Health Committee itself being responsible for the supervision of a mental illness service.

The following is a list of the staff employed in this service:—

General Supervision	Medical Officer of Health
Approved Medical Officer ... Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations, 1945	Deputy Medical Officer of Health
Duly Authorised Officer	1 male 1 part-time deputy
Mental Welfare Officers	1 female 1 assistant
Supervisor, Occupation Centre ...	1 female 2 assistants

The Duly Authorised Officers, one full-time and one part-time deal with cases under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and the Senior Mental Welfare Officer and her assistant undertake the assessment of mental defectives and their supervision when placed under Statutory Supervision. Both Mental Welfare Officers are Petitioning Officers for the purpose of certification under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

The after-care of patients discharged from mental hospitals is carried out by the health visiting staff, a number of health visitors having attended a special course on such care.

Co-operation with Mental Hospitals

There is close co-operation with the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and the Hospital Management Committee of St. Margaret's Hospital, and Mental Deficiency Hospital, and the advice and and assistance of the officers of the Board and the Committee are freely available.

MENTAL ILLNESS

The number of cases suffering from mental illness, seeking voluntary admission to mental hospitals, has been maintained during the present year.

The following table shews the number of cases dealt with in 1959 under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, or otherwise, by the Duly Authorised Officers: —

No. of Health Service certified patients removed to St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	70
No. of Health Service voluntary patients admitted to St. Matthew's Hospital, Burntwood	212
No. of Health Service cases, alleged to be of unsound mind, investigated	54
No. of patients referred for after-care	208
No. of after-care visits paid	825
No. of miscellaneous visits made by the Duly Authorised Officers	367

The system whereby after-care visiting of patients discharged from mental hospitals is carried out by the health visiting staff has continued to work very satisfactorily. These patients often, after a long stay in a mental hospital, are faced with the difficult task of readjusting themselves to life in the community. The Health Visitor, with careful handling and tact, can assist greatly in helping the patient to regain confidence and, although progress may be slow, the time spent is considered well worth while, even if success is not always achieved. A considerable amount of time is also spent by the Health Visitors and sometimes by the Duly Authorised Officers, in persuading patients to return to hospital for further treatment.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

Ascertainment

Head teachers of schools are responsible for reporting to the Principal School Medical Officer any child whom they feel is retarded. In cases where children are found to be ineducable on ascertainment, the Health Committee assumes responsibility for their supervision. Arrangments are then made for their admission to mental deficiency hospital or to the Council's Occupation Centre. A large number of cases is placed under voluntary supervision, and those placed under guardianship are under the supervision of the Guardianship Officer, who is also the Assistant Mental Welfare Officer.

The system of temporary care under circular 5/52 was used as much as possible during the year to enable relatives of patients living at home to have a period of respite.

The accompanying tables show in detail persons dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

Patients on Licence, etc.

The Council has an arrangement with mental hospitals within the region, for the Council's Mental Welfare Officers to be responsible for reports on home conditions for leave of absence and for the supervision of patients on licence from hospital. These Officers also report on the home conditions of patients expected to be allowed on licence for trial and for discharge from Order. In addition, reports are made to the visitors for the County of Stafford, and periodic reports on patients on licence to the Medical Superintendent at St. Margaret's Hospital and other hospitals.

The Mental Welfare Officers continue to find employment for patients who are considered suitable for licence and for their supervision afterwards.

Mental Welfare Association

The Senior Mental Welfare Officer is Secretary of the Mental Welfare Association and this officer and the Assistant Mental Welfare Officer are responsible for the work undertaken by the Association. There is a large number of voluntary patients on the register and the Association carries out useful work in supervising cases which do not come within the purview of the Statutory Committee.

Occupation Centre

There were 42 juniors and 31 seniors in attendance at the Occupation Centre at the end of 1959, an increase as compared with last year, particularly in the junior group.

The curriculum of the Centre includes rug making, stool seating, embroidery, handicrafts, percussion band, eurhythmics, country dancing, puppetry, games and speech training.

It is anticipated that work on the erection of the new Occupation Centre will commence towards the end of 1960. This new building will certainly fill a long felt need in Walsall as the present Centre, conducted in church school premises is most inadequate.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913—1938

1. Particulars of cases reported during 1959	Under age 16		Age 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with." Action taken on reports by—				
(1) Local Education Authorities on children				
(i) While at school or liable to attend school	8	8	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools	4	1	3	—
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools	2	5	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts	—	—	—	—
(3) Other sources	1	—	1	2
Total of 1 *(a)* ...	15	14	4	2
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives, but were not regarded as "subject to be dealt with" on any ground	—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives and thus excluded from *(a)* or *(b)*	—	—	—	—
(d) Cases reported in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1959, and thus excluded from *(a)* or *(b)*	—	—	—	—
Total of 1 *(a)* — *(d)* ...	15	14	4	2

2. Disposal of cases reported during 1959

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number				
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	14	14	4	1
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Hospitals	1	—	—	1
Total of 2 *(a)* ...	15	14	4	2
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives "subject to be dealt with" number				
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—	—
(ii) Action unnecessary	—	—	—	—
Total of 2 *(b)* ...	—	—	—	—
(c) Cases reported at 1 (*a*) or (*b*) who removed from the area or died before disposal was arranged	—	—	—	—
Total of 2 *(a)* — *(c)* ...	15	14	4	2

3. Number of Mental Defectives for whom care was arranged by the Local Health Authority under Circular 5/52 during 1959	Under age 16		Aged 16 or over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Admitted to:—				
(a) National Health Service hospitals	2	1	—	3
(b) Elsewhere	3	4	—	—
Total ...	5	5	—	3
4. Total cases on Authority's Registers at 31.12.59				
(i) Under Statutory Supervision	37	35	108	110
(ii) Under Guardianship	—	—	1	1
(iii) In "Places of Safety"	—	—	—	—
(iv) In Hospitals	13	9	128	151
Total 4 (i — iv) ...	50	44	237	262
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	283	203
Total 4 (i — v) ...	50	44	520	465
5. Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31.12.59, who were dealt with under the provisions of Sec. 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 (included in 4 (ii))	—	—	—	—

6. Classification of defectives in the Community on 31.12.59 (according to need at that date)

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(a) Cases included in 4 (i)—(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority:—				
(1) In urgent need of hospital care:—				
(i) "Cot and chair" cases	—	1	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	2	—	—	—
(iii) Medium grade cases	—	—	—	—
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—
Total urgent cases	2	1	—	—
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care:—				
(i) "Cot and chair" cases	—	—	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	—	1	—	—
(iii) Medium grade cases	—	—	—	—
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—
Total non-urgent cases ...	—	1	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

6. (continued)

	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(b) Of the cases included in items 4 (i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for:—				
(i) Occupation centre	24	22	6	5
(ii) Industrial centre	—	3	9	11
(iii) Home training	—	—	—	—
Total ...	24	25	15	16
(c) Of the cases included in item 6 *(b)* number receiving training on 31.12.59:—				
(i) In occupation centre	19	12	6	5
(ii) In industrial centre	—	3	7	9
(iii) From a home teacher—in groups	—	—	—	—
(iv) From a home teacher at home (not in groups)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	19	15	13	14

SECTION D.

MISCELLANEOUS

Health Education

Our health education campaign has continued during the year by means of posters, lectures and talks to various groups. Requests from various organisations for members of the medical and nursing staff to give talks on the work of the department have been complied with. The Superintendent Health Visitor has lectured to a number of organisations on various aspects of public health and the services which are available, and her talks have been much appreciated. In addition health visiting staff gave a number of talks to various voluntary organisations.

During the year under review, particular attention was paid to poliomyelitis vaccination publicity, with particular emphasis on the adult age group. Earlier in the year the response for poliomyelitis vaccination, due to the death of a well-known local footballer from poliomyelitis, was so great that open sessions had to be staffed in some cases by three doctors, yet later in the year a vaccination campaign, using publicity material supplied by poliomyelitis vaccine manufacturers, failed to produce any marked increase in the number of applications for vaccination. It seems, therefore, that the stark realistic type of publicity is the only really effective means of putting over health education or any other type of preventive campaign. Do we, therefore, have to produce cases of poliomyelitis, smallpox and diphtheria to ensure high rates of vaccination or immunisation against these diseases?

Weekly mothercraft classes were continued for young mothers expecting their first babies, the course of seven lectures being given by health visiting and midwifery staff. The lectures cover all aspects of ante-natal care, preparation for confinement and the care of the mother and baby during the first fourteen days after confinement, at the conclusion of which a film " The Birth of a Baby " is shown.

In July a film " Facts and Figures " dealing with smoking and lung cancer was shown at several senior schools in the Borough. The commentary on the film was given by members of the medical staff who also answered questions posed by the pupils.

Although we are limited in the amount of time which can be given to health education owing to the shortage of staff, we are always willing to arrange for films or lectures to be given to any group which requests this service.

The Health Department has its own film projector and from time to time suitable films are shown during the course of lectures, there being a number of useful films available for this purpose. The officers concerned, medical and nursing staff in particular, often give freely of their own time for these lectures and thanks are due to these officers for their enthusiasm and concern for this aspect of our work.

Nursing Homes

At the end of the year there were no nursing homes registered under the Public Health Act, 1936.

There is one Home for Disabled and Old Persons, registered under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

The Senior Medical Officer has paid three visits during the year.

Medical Examinations

The medical staff of the health department carry out medical examinations on behalf of the various corporation departments on candidates for admission to the superannuation scheme and also act as medical examiners in cases where corporation employees are reported to be medically unfit to continue in the Council's service. The following table shows the number of medical examinations carried out during the year: —

Transport Department	197
Education Department	146
Public Works Department	104
Health Department	43
Housing Department	19
Children Department	17
Town Clerk's Department	6
Borough Treasurer's Department	5
Fire Department	2
Baths, Parks and Cemeteries Department	28
Welfare Department	3
Police Department	7
Public Libraries	6
Civil Defence Department	1
Workshops for the Blind	4
Weights and Measures Department	1
Magistrates' Clerk's Office	1
	590

Pathological Examinations

The arrangement for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens by the National Laboratories Service has continued throughout the year. The laboratory, situated at Stafford, is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health, and the service is a complete one covering all our possible requirements.

The medical staff of the Health Department send specimens for examination regularly and the service is also open to any of the local medical practitioners. The bacteriological examination of milk and other specimens is also carried out.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Action was taken under the procedure as modified by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951 in respect of two persons, who were in need of care and attention and refused to enter Part III accommodation voluntarily. The appropriate certificates were issued in each case and compulsory removal carried out.

Cremation

The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Referee to the Walsall Corporation under the regulations made in pursuance of the Cremation Act, 1902, and is responsible to the Corporation for the final authority to cremate.

During 1959 certificates were given in respect of 379 deaths of persons who had resided in Walsall, and 297 in respect of persons who had resided outside the Borough, a total of 676.

As it is not always possible for the Medical Officer of Health to be present on all occasions when authority to cremate is required, authority was requested for the appointment of deputies to act in his absence, and the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare have been appointed Approved Deputies by the Council with the sanction of the Home Office.

Nurseries and Child-Minders

The Nurseries and Child-minders Regulations Act 1949 provides for the registration of nurseries and child-minders, where children numbering more than two and who come from more than one household are cared for. The Act does not apply to the care of children by relatives.

The care of such children in Walsall has never been a serious problem and up to the end of the year no premises or persons had been registered under the Act.

Blind Persons

The care of blind persons is a function of the Welfare Committee in Walsall, and they work in close conjunction with the Walsall, Wednesbury and District Society for the Blind. There is a modern institution and workshops for the blind in the town and the facilities and care provided are of the best.

At the end of 1959 there were 277 Walsall residents on the register for the blind and 32 on the register for the partially sighted.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WALSALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

ON THE

Work of the Public Health Inspectors

for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the County Borough of Walsall.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my annual report for 1959 on the work of the Public Health Inspectors in the Borough.

This is the fifth year in succession that I have to report on continuing staff shortages and extreme pressure of duties. These circumstances have a serious cumulative effect on the work of the department and, of necessity, some duties have had to be neglected. Two main activities namely slum clearance and meat inspection have however been given priority, and it has also been necessary to devote an increasing amount of time to atmospheric pollution.

Although presented in a restricted form, the report does contain sufficient information to indicate the amount and scope of the work undertaken by the public health inspectors.

I again pay tribute to the continued support and co-operation of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and Medical Officer of Health. My thanks are also due to chief officers and heads of departments for their help and co-operation.

To the members of my staff I tender sincere thanks. In particular I would like to place on record my appreciation of the work of my deputy Mr. E. Bayley and the Specialist Inspectors, Messrs. Woodward, Kelley, Penn and Monks for their help in the preparation of this report.

Yours obediently,

C. A. STANSBURY,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

PART 1—STAFF

The past year has seen several changes in the staff of this section of the department.

Mr. D. C. Hough, third meat inspector, resigned from the department on the 25th October in order to take up an appointment as public health inspector with the Cannock Rural District Council. Two public health inspectors were called up for National Service during the year, namely, Mr. D. J. Payne on the 22nd January and Mr. F. Coldrick on the 15th February, 1959. On the 1st January Mr. J. A. Richards and Mr. R. J. Moore were appointed respectively as district public health inspector and specialist meat inspector. Two pupil public health inspectors were appointed later in the year—one of them on a probationary basis: one of these pupils later qualified as a public health inspector. In May one of the district inspectors succeeded in obtaining the Meat and Other Foods Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

A female junior clerk was appointed on the 10th August, 1959.

PART 2—HOUSING

This section of the report deals with a wide aspect of work carried out under the Public Health and Walsall Corporation Acts and under the Housing Acts in connection with the repair, improvement, demolition or closure of properties and reference is made under appropriate headings to the main aspects of this work.

Repairs to Houses

Approximately 1,740 complaints of unsatisfactory conditions in dwellinghouses were investigated and dealt with in the year under review, compared with about 1,500 similar complaints during the previous year. The works of repair referred to have again been of a basic character, designed primarily to relieve conditions which are prejudicial to health rather than to attempt to raise the standard of fitness of houses by comprehensive repair and reconditioning. It is a matter for regret that shortage of staff and pressure of other work has prevented the department from using its powers under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957 for the systematic and comprehensive repair of houses.

Nevertheless some 1,300 houses have benefited by works of repair carried out in consequence of action taken by this department; these works have consisted of general property repairs and of repairs to drains and water closets. In the majority of cases the repair works were carried out by owners in consequence of notices served upon them; in the remainder of the cases work was carried out by this department and the cost recovered from the owners.

Increased use has been made of the Walsall Corporation Act 1954 which gives the department summary powers to enforce urgent repairs to dwellinghouses. This Act empowers the department, if notices are not complied with within a relatively short time, to carry out the work in the owners' default without resorting to Court action; the cost of such work is ultimately recovered from the owners. Some indication of the value of this Act may be deduced from the summary below.

	No. of Notices Served	Work done by Owners	Work done in Default
Section 44 (power to remedy stopped up drains, etc.) ...	47	19	28
Section 50 (repair of defective houses)	236	179	51

Rent Act Procedure

The Rent Act 1957 has now been in force for about 2½ years. Although it is true to say that this complicated act is now better understood, it is interesting to note that during the past year there has been a marked decline in the use of its provisions. The table below analyses activity under the Rent Act 1957 and enables a comparison to be drawn between the position in 1959 and 1958.

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

	1959	1958
1. Number of applications for Certificates ...	27	121
2. Number of decisions not to issue certificates	Nil	Nil
3. Number of decisions to issue Certificates—		
(a) In respect of some but not all defects ...	9	80
(b) In respect of all defects	21	98
4. Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule ...	15	88
5. Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil	Nil
6. Number of Certificates issued	15	92

Part II—Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

7. Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	16	31
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	10	11
9. Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	1	Nil
10. Certificates cancelled by Local Authority ...	10	17

The discrepancy between the number of applications received for certificates of disrepair and the number of certificates issued is due to the fact that a considerable time often elapses between the date of application and the date of decision to issue a certificate. It should be realised that a certificate is not necessarily issued in respect of every application.

Slum Clearance

It was reported in my last annual report that no clearance areas had been represented in 1958 but that efforts were being concentrated on the inspection of property which it was intended to represent in 1959. This has resulted in ten new clearance areas being made during the year involving a total of 350 houses. Of the ten areas represented the following nine were made the subject of clearance or compulsory purchase orders: —

1.	The Walsall (Bridgeman Street) Clearance Order 1959	100 houses
2.	The Walsall (Navigation Street) Clearance Order 1959	25 houses
3.	The Walsall (Bott Lane) Clearance Order 1959	7 houses
4.	The Walsall (Eldon Street) Clearance Order 1959	14 houses
5.	The Walsall (Burrowes Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1959	137 houses
6.	The Walsall (Green Lane, Leamore) Compulsory Purchase Order 1959	8 houses
7.	The Walsall (North Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1959	8 houses
8.	The Walsall (Proffitt Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1959	20 houses
9.	The Walsall (Carless Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1959	8 houses

It is anticipated that the tenth area, the Walsall (Bell Lane, Bloxwich) Clearance Area will be made the subject of a clearance or compulsory purchase order early in 1960. The first four Orders mentioned above were confirmed during the year without modification; confirmation of the remaining Orders is still awaited.

The Walsall (Burrowes Street) Compulsory Purchase Order 1959 included a number of " grey " areas involving factories, shops, businesses, licensed premises and vacant land. Although these properties were not in themselves unfit their acquisition by the Council was considered necessary for the proper redevelopment of the area.

The Walsall (Leamore) Compulsory Purchase Order 1958 was confirmed on the 29th April, 1959, subject to the following modifications: —

1. that the dwellinghouse and shop known as "The Corner Shop" situate at the corner of Portsea Street and Leamore Lane be excluded from the Order, and

2. the dwellinghouse and shop No. 21, Providence Lane, which was included in the "pink" area of the map be excluded from the "pink" area and that it be coloured "grey."

Apart from houses included in clearance areas a number of individual properties were represented under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act with a view to demolition or closure. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 80 unfit houses and undertakings not to use for human habitation accepted in another eight cases. Certificates of unfitness were issued on 27 Corporation owned houses from which tenants were being rehoused prior to demolition; these certificates were issued so as to enable the Corporation to claim subsidy for rehousing purposes.

During the year 264 families were rehoused from 254 houses and 235 houses were demolished; the total number of persons moved was 857. At the 31st December 1959 there were 235 condemned houses still being occupied. The summary below sets out in detail the progress made during the year in the clearance of unfit properties.

Condemned houses still in occupation at 1st January, 1959	114
Houses represented with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders	85
Certificates of unfitness issued by Medical Officer of Health in respect of Council owned properties	27
Houses represented in Clearance Areas	350
Condemned houses vacated	254
Condemned houses demolished	235
Condemned houses still occupied at 31st December 1959 ...	235

Except for the war years 1939-1945 slum clearance has been going on progressively since 1930, and the progress of the work from 1930 up to the present time is summarised below: —

Houses represented as unfit	5,058
Houses demolished or closed	4,275
Approximate number of persons displaced	17,667

During 1959 new houses in Walsall were provided by the following undertakers: —

(a) Walsall Corporation	543
(b) Private Persons—	
(i) Permanent houses	333
(ii) New dwellings created by conversion of existing properties	4

Improvement Grants

New legislation in the form of the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 came into operation during the year and made important modifications to the Improvement Grant Scheme. This Act made it obligatory for local authorities, subject to certain conditions being met, to make grants in respect of the provision of five standard amenities namely: — hot water system, bath, wash hand basin, water closet and ventilated larder. These latter grants are known as "standard grants" and enable owners to improve their houses by installing such of the standard amenities as are necessary to ensure that the house has all five standard amenities. The amount of grant paid depends upon the nature and number of amenities provided; if all five amenities are provided under the scheme a maximum grant of £155, or half the cost of the work, whichever is the less, is payable to the applicant. The original improvement grant scheme still operates, but these grants are now known as "discretionary grants." In general a higher standard of fitness and amenity is required in the case of the discretionary grant scheme. The summary below sets out the position with regard to the making of discretionary grants and standard grants during 1959.

	Discretionary Grants	Standard Grants
Enquiries received	247 ...	15
Applications considered	131 ...	15
,, approved	128 ...	15

Total cost of all Grants approved during the year—£20,056 0s. 11d.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures

As in previous years much of the inspectors' time has been taken up in dealing with the unauthorised parking of caravans and tents on vacant land within the Borough. Such parking contravenes the provisions of Section 106 of the Walsall Corporation Act 1930 and the offending van dwellers have been notified in writing of this fact. The notice takes the form of an informal letter and if the tent or van is not removed within a reasonable time its occupier is prosecuted. The control of unauthorised parking of caravans takes up a disproportionate amount of the inspectors' time in view of the propensity of many van dwellers to return to sites from which they have been evicted. While there is no doubt that the measures taken by the department are reasonably effective the problem can ultimately be solved only by proper development or effective fencing off of vacant sites.

PART 3—FOOD

The administration of the law relating to food and drugs forms an important part of the duties of a public health inspector. For convenience the subject is dealt with in this report under the following headings: —

(a) Slaughtering facilities;
(b) Inspection of Meat;
(c) Diseases of Animals Act administration;
(d) Unwholesome food condemned;
(e) Foods of unsatisfactory quality;
(f) Milk;
(g) Ice Cream;
(h) Food Hygiene;
(i) Sampling—Food and Drugs Acts, 1955.

(a) Slaughtering Facilities

In Walsall the slaughtering of animals for sale for food is carried out exclusively in two privately owned slaughterhouses in Shortacre Street.

(b) Inspection of Meat

General Review

During 1959 the carcases and offals of 86,197 animals were inspected compared with 77,940 during 1958; this represents an overall increase of about 7 per cent. The figures are analysed in more detail at the commencement of Table 3 on page 56. Compared with 1958 there has been a reduction in the number of cattle, cows, calves and pigs slaughtered; this reduction has, however, been more than offset by a substantial increase in the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered.

Meat inspection at the slaughterhouse has been carried out on a full-time basis by Mr. A. D. Kelley, Mr. J. W. Fairless, Mr. D. C. Hough and Mr. R. J. Moore. These inspectors have specialised experience in meat inspection but, at holidays times and during periods of absence from sickness, they are relieved by other qualified meat inspectors on the staff. The practice in Walsall of inspecting all animals at the time of slaughter has enabled the department to maintain a high standard of meat inspection and thus adequately to safeguard the public health in this respect.

The total weight of diseased meat and offal condemned during 1959 was approximately 101 tons. Tables 2 and 3 on pages 55 and 56 refer in some detail to the main forms of disease encountered in animals on post mortem examination, but because of pressure of work it has not been possible to include a detailed analysis of all the diseased conditions met with. Certain additional detailed information on the diseases encountered has been supplied to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Meat condemned because of bruising

The weight of meat condemned during the year because of bruising was 5,359 lbs. compared with 7,592 lbs. in 1958 and 10,971 lbs. in 1957.

Congenital Tuberculosis in Calves

Only two cases of congenital tuberculosis in calves were recorded this year compared with four in the previous year. Details of the farm from which these animals came have been forwarded to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Cysticercosis

This is a parasitic condition of certain food animals which may cause tapeworm infestation in man. This condition is found mainly in cattle but on rare occasions a related form of the parasite is found in pigs and sheep. During the past year this condition was encountered in the organs or carcase meat of 120 cattle and 11 sheep; it was not encountered in any pigs.

All meat and offals found to be affected with the parasite were condemned. The remaining apparently healthy offals and carcases were refrigerated for 14 days in order to render them safe for human consumption. An analysis of cysticercosis is given in Table 1 on page 55.

Swine Fever

This is a notifiable disease under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950. It is not commonly met with in the slaughterhouse but the Meat Inspectors have, during the year, had to undertake the examination of 437 pigs which were sent in for slaughter because they had been in contact with pigs affected with swine fever. The carcases of these pigs were subjected to a thorough post-mortem examination; none of them were found to be affected with swine fever, but some carcases and organs were condemned because of other diseases.

TABLE 1
Cysticercosis in Cattle, Sheep and Pigs

Animals	Masseter muscle of head	Tongue	Heart	Skirt	Carcase muscle	
					Localised	Generalised
Bullocks ...	41	1	43	4	—	—
Heifers ...	16	1	17	1	—	—
Cows ...	—	—	1	—	—	—
Bulls ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals for cattle	57	2	61	5	1	—
Sheep ...	—	—	10	—	—	1
Pigs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis Area Eradication Plan

The aim of this plan, which is administered by Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is the virtual eradication of bovine tuberculosis. The plan has been in operation for a number of years and the cattle in certain parts of the country are now tuberculosis free. In March of this year the Minister extended the plan, on a voluntary basis, to Central England. Under this voluntary plan, farmers are urged to have their cattle tuberculin tested (free of charge), and to send for slaughter all those animals which react to the test. The owners of animals slaughtered under this voluntary scheme receive suitable compensation.

Between March and December 17 reactors were slaughtered at the Walsall Slaughterhouse; of this number the carcases and all organs of two animals were condemned because of tuberculosis, and parts of the carcases and organs of eight other animals were condemned for the same reason.

Diseased Meat and Offals

During the year the following quantities of meat and offals were found to be diseased, unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

TABLE 2

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.—				
Carcase meat	24	13	1	5
Offals	61	15	1	15
Tuberculosis only:—				
Carcase meat	6	7	3	20
Offals	8	19	3	26
	101	16	2	10

Meat and Food Inspection Statistics

The following table sets out the number of carcases inspected, together with particulars of the carcases or parts thereof condemned, and is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

TABLE 3

1959

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	7,405	500	3,422	53,644	21,226	—
Number inspected	7,405	500	3,422	53,644	21,226	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcases condemned	23	13	5	167	80	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	5,694	308	12	19,091	7,038	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	77.21%	64.2%	0.41%	35.90%	33.54%	—
TUBERCULOSIS:						
Whole carcases condemned	11	3	4	—	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	340	66	1	—	567	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.74%	13.8%	0.14%	—	2.7%	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	119	1	—	10	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	119	1	—	9	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	1	—	—

Total number of carcases examined ... ... 86,197.

(c) DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT ADMINISTRATION

Work under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, is carried out in the main by the department's whole time meat inspectors, although all qualified inspectors on the staff are appointed as inspectors under the Act.

The Diseases of Animals Act, 1950 is a complicated Act and its legislative requirements are effected mainly by means of Orders relating to specific diseases. The aim of these Orders is to limit the spread of notifiable animal diseases such as swine fever, foot and mouth disease, anthrax and fowl pest. Most of the work under the Act consists of controlling movement of livestock within the Borough but a considerable amount of time is spent in inspecting plant used in sterilisation of animal feeding stuffs. Towards the end of the year the Inspectors were involved in an increased amount of work under the Poultry Premises and Vehicles (Disinfection) Order 1956. The Tuberculosis Area Eradication plan, to which reference has been made in the section of the report dealing with meat inspection, was applied to Central England by an Order under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

Certain important functions under this Act are carried out by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and by the Police. Close and effective liaison is therefore maintained betwen this department, the police and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(d) UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED

The following table gives details of the nature and weight of foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption during the year 1959. The bulk of the foodstuffs was surrendered to the Public Health Inspectors at the time of inspection.

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.
Meat and Offal (at slaughterhouse, Shortacre Street)	101	16	2	10
Meat (at butchers' shops)	—	—	—	—
Tinned and other foods	3	12	—	23
Total ...	105	8	3	5

(e) FOODS OF UNSATISFACTORY QUALITY

The number of complaints by members of the public with regard to foodstuffs sold to them which were unsatisfactory by nature or substance was much smaller this year as can be seen from the following list: —

Fancy cake containing a fly;

Bottle of milk containing broken glass;

Loaf of bread containing oil stain;

Chip potatoes containing cockroach;

Jar of pickles containing beetle;

Loaf of bread containing moth larva;

Pork pie affected with mould;

Filled chocolate block containing larva of cocoa moth;

Malt loaf containing nail.

In all cases the vendors and manufacturers were notified or interviewed. Where possible makers' premises were inspected and inquiries made as to the probable cause of the offence. Particulars of offence, together with explanations offered by those concerned, were reported to the Health Committee who dealt with all cases by the issue of warning letters.

(f) MILK

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

This year 85 samples of milk were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis; 84 of these samples satisfied the presumptive standard but one sample was reported as being unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample contained 8.26 per cent. solids-not-fat, had a freezing point of —0.516°C and contained 2.9 per cent. extraneous water; this milk came from a dairy firm outside the borough, but further samples from the same source have been satisfactory.

Inspection of dairies

Routine visits throughout the year to the two processing dairies showed that general cleanliness and methods were satisfactory and that plant was well maintained.

Milk bottles were taken from bottle washing machines on 29 occasions and examined bacteriologically. There were two occasions when the resulting bacterial counts were so high (above 2,000) as to be unsatisfactory, and eight occasions on which the counts were fairly satisfactory (between 600 and 2,000). The counts were all satisfactory (below 600) on the other 19 occasions.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 to 1954

The result of 502 samples of milk tested at the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, are shown in table 4 on page 62.

Of 365 samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test, 84 were declared "void" because the atmospheric shade temperature at the laboratory exceeded 65°F during the compulsory holding time. Only one of the remaining 281 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test and this was a bottle of Farm-bottled T.T. (Channel Islands) Milk; the appropriate authority was notified.

In order to ascertain if pasteurisation had been efficiently carried out 349 samples of milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test. One sample failed this test and investigations subsequently revealed that raw milk had been accidentally mixed with Pasteurised Milk in a carton filling machine.

Biological Tests

Forty-four samples of raw milk were taken at local farms and transmitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, where they were submitted to the biological test for Tubercle Bacilli.

One of these samples was found to be positive and the details were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. As a result of the inspection by a Veterinary Officer of the Ministry, one cow was found to be tuberculous and was consequently slaughtered.

All other samples gave negative results.

(g) ICE CREAM

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959

During the past year 106 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test. The results are set out in table 5 on page 63.

More samples were reported as falling within Grades 2 and 3 than in 1958, but the number of samples in Grade 4 was the lowest ever recorded. The percentages of samples in Grades 1 and 2 (87.74 per cent.) were higher than the previous year. The high incidence of grades 2 and 3 samples may have been due to the unusually hot weather.

Food Standard Ice Cream) Regulation 1959

These new regulations replace the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. Broadly speaking they introduce separate standards of composition for dairy ice cream and milk ice as well as "ordinary" ice cream (i.e. ice cream containing fat other than butter fat). The standards prescribe minimum percentages of fat and of milk solids other-than-fat, and prohibit the use of any artificial sweetener; they do not lay down a standard for sugar content.

There were 24 samples of ice cream taken to the Public Analyst during the year for chemical analysis, and two of these were reported as being unsatisfactory. One unsatisfactory sample had a deficiency of 20 per cent. fat, but further samples from the same source were satisfactory. The wording on the wrapper of the other sample was unsatisfactory in that the word "cream" was used to describe ice cream which contained fat other than milk fat.

The average composition of the 24 samples was: —

Milk Solids other than fat	10.97%
Fat	7.98%

(h) FOOD HYGIENE

It is again regretted that shortage of staff and pressure of work have severely limited the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. In the main inspections have been confined to those premises in respect of which complaints have been received from members of the public or from which unsatisfactory food stuffs are alleged to have been sold.

The meat inspectors were, however, able to carry out routine inspections of butchers' shops in connection with the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations; they also inspected vans used for the transport of meat and it was necessary in one case to prosecute an owner whose van contravened certain of the regulations. The prosecution is summarised in Part 8 of the report which deals with legal proceedings.

(i) SAMPLING—FOODS AND DRUGS ACT 1955

This year 219 samples of food and drugs were taken to the Public Analyst for examination and chemical analysis compared with 208 last year. Of this number 43 were formal samples and 176 informal; 85 of the samples were of milk.

In all 24 samples (10.95% of the total) were reported as being unsatisfactory; the reports on the unsatisfactory samples are summarised in the following table.

DETAILS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES

Sample serial No.	Article	Formal (F) or Informal (I)	Nature of Contravention etc.	Action Taken
22	Currants	I	An undesirable amount of contamination due to the presence of insect parts and rodent hairs.	Importers notified
23	Dried Apricots	I		
50	Currants	I		
53	Dried Apricots	I		
55	Currants	I		
56	Currants	I		
57	Dried Apricots	I		
58	Currants	I		
59	Currants	I		
81	Currants	I		
82	Currants	I		
83	Currants	I		
84	Currants	I		
87	Currants	I		
91	Currants	I		
78	Ice Cream	I	Labelling irregularity.	Manufacturer notified.
106	Ice Cream	I	20% Fat Deficiency.	Ditto
161	Casserole Steak	I	Contained not more than 80% meat, and should have been described as casserole steak with gravy.	Ditto
168	Menthol and Eucalyptol Pastille B.P.C.	I	Labelling irregularity.	Ditto
188	Glace Cherries	I	Label did not disclose that glucose content was in the form of liquid glucose.	Importers notified
191	Glace Cherries	I		
193	Glace Cherries	I		
200	Glace Cherries	I		
212	Milk	I	Contained 2.9% extraneous water and was deficient of solids-not-fat (8.26% instead of 8.5%).	Formal repeat samples satisfactory.

Detailed List of Samples

(Except where otherwise indicated, one sample of each commodity was taken.)

Almond Marzipan 3; Apricots dried 3; Brandy Butter; Cake mixtures etc. 5; Beef, minced, prepacked, frozen, 3; Casserole Steak; Chicken in Jelly, minced; Christmas Puddings 4; Condensed Full Cream Milk; Corned Beef; Cough and Throat Pastilles 4; Currants 18; Fish Cakes 3; Fish Paste; Ground Almonds 9; Glace Cherries 6; Hamburgers, canned; Honey; Herbs Dried 2; Ice Cream 24; Ice Cream Powder; Irish Stew; Lard 3; Malt Vinegar 2; Marzipan; Meat Pie; Milk 85; Mincemeat 3; Mineral Water 2; Oranges; Orange Drinks 5; Peel Mixed 5; Pepper; Pork Pies 3; Rabbit; Steak and Kidney Pie 3; Stewed Steak with Gravy; Soup; Sultanas 5; Table Cream; Tomato Juice.

TABLE 4

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949 TO 1954

RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK, 1959

Milk Designation	Summary of Results				Prescribed Tests						Biological Tests	
					Methylene blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Tubercle Bacilli	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void *	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Negative	Positive
T.T. Channel Islands (farm bottled) ..	15	1	—	16	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. Channel Islands (Pasteurised) ..	44	—	11	55	44	—	55	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised) ..	90	1	21	112	91	—	111	1	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised (Channel Islands) ..	12	—	3	15	12	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	75	—	19	94	75	—	94	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised (Schools Milk) ..	43	—	30	73	43	—	73	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised..	92	1	—	93	—	—	—	—	92	1	—	—
T.T. (Bulk)	15	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—
Undesignated (Bulk) ..	28	1	—	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	1
Totals	414	4	84	502	280	1	348	1	92	1	43	1

* Samples declared "Void" by reason of atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°F. at the Laboratory.

TABLE 5

RESULTS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES 1959

METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST

Classification	No. of samples	Percentage of total samples	Number in each Grade				Percentage in each Grade			
			Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Local Manufacture (Heat Treated) ..	62	58·49%	38	11	12	1	61·29%	17·74%	19·36%	1·61%
Local Manufacture (Cold Mix)	5	4·72%	5	—	—	—	100·00%	—	—	—
Local Manufacture (Totals)	67	63·21%	43	11	12	1	64·18%	16·42%	17·91%	1·49%
Other Manufacture	39	36·79%	39	—	—	—	100·00%	—	—	—
All Samples (Totals) ..	106	100·00%	82	11	12	1	77·36%	10·38%	11·32%	0·94%

	Grades 1 & 2	Grades 3 & 4
1955	88.19% ...	11.81%
1956	91.75% ...	8.25%
1957	81.71% ...	18.29%
1958	86.80% ...	13.20%
1959	87.74% ...	12.26%

PART 4.—WATER

There were 113 samples of water examined during 1959; one sample was examined chemically and 112 were examined bacteriologically.

The water for chemical analysis was from a deep well of old construction found during alterations at a food factory. While the sample was found to be chemically satisfactory for washing purposes, it was unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

Of 18 samples of the town's water supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, one sample was found to be of suspicious quality bacteriologically and two were found to be unsatisfactory; the remaining 15 were satisfactory bacteriologically. Because of specific complaints by the members of the public nine of these samples were also examined microscopically and although seven were found to contain algæ, etc., they were declared safe for drinking.

Of 34 samples of water taken from two bore holes, and submitted to bacteriological examination, one was of suspicious quality and two were unsatisfactory.

The remaining 59 bacteriological samples were of water in swimmings baths and pools and of these only one sample from an open air pool was unsatisfactory, due to a breakdown of plant.

TABLE 6

RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES, 1959

Source of Samples	Classification by Coliform Count				Chemical Test	Totals
	0 Highly Satisfactory	1 to 3 Satisfactory	4 to 10 Suspicious	Over 10 Unsatis-factory		
1st Class Swimming Bath	33	—	—	—	—	33
2nd Class Swimming Bath	12	—	—	—	—	12
Brine Swimming Bath	6	—	—	—	—	6
Open Air Swimming Bath	5	—	—	1	—	6
Children's Lido Pools	2	—	—	—	—	2
Bore Holes	30	1	1	2	—	34
Deep Well	—	—	—	1	1	2
South Staffordshire ... ... Waterworks Company ... ... Mains Supply	12	3	1	2	—	18+
Totals	100	4	2	6	1	113

The sample for chemical analysis was reported as being satisfactory chemically for use in cleansing bottles and jars but was too hard for use in a boiler.

+ Nine of the samples of South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's mains supply water were also examined miscroscopically; although seven of these contained algæ and similar organisms, they were safe for drinking purposes.

PART 5—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General Policy

It continues to be the policy of this department to endeavour to reduce emissions of smoke, dust and grit from industrial premises by frequent contact with the management of the firms concerned and this policy has, on the whole, worked smoothly.

During the year, with the co-operation of the Borough Surveyor's Department, some 157 plans of industrial or commercial premises were inspected. Of these 157 plans, 36 involved installations which might give rise to smoke emissions, four to dust emissions and 10 to fume escapes. Modifications to plant and to chimney heights were requested in a number of cases.

Improvements in Industrial Fuel Burning Plant

Several industrial concerns in the town have modernised or improved their fuel burning plant. One large vertical boiler and two loco type boilers have been replaced with super economic types fitted with automatic stokers and smoke alarm systems; two Lancashire boilers have been replaced by oil fired economic boilers, and chaingrate stokers have been fitted to two other boilers. Certain of the larger foundries have reduced smoke emission by the conversion of coal fired annealing ovens to oil firing or by replacing them with electric or gas heated ovens.

Dust and Fume Control

New and additonal dust arresting equipment has been provided at several factories, principally foundries and grinding shops; one foundry has fitted a wet type arrester to its cupola, thus eliminating a serious local grit nuisance.

A survey has been started of all the foundries in the town with a view to ensuring that they incorporate practicable means of minimising grit emission and so comply with Section 5 of the Clean Air Act 1956.

Close co-operation exists between this department and the Alkali Works Inspectorate, and joint visits and consultations have been made in connection with grit and fume nuisances from the various registered processes.

Clean Air Act 1956

(a) Smoke Control Areas

Although no Smoke Control Orders were made during the year a considerable amount of preliminary and preparatory work in connection with smoke control measures has been undertaken.

On the 4th March the Housing Committee passed the following resolution:—

"that the Health Committee be informed that this Committee is installing the necessary solid fuel burning appliances in future Council house development in order that such dwellings may be included in a smoke control area without any additional expense and that the West Midlands Gas Board have agreed to make available gas services to all future estates so that gas points may be fitted to such appliances."

Council policy on smoke control areas generally was further considered by the Council on 25th July when the following statement of principle was approved: —

"(2) that all new housing developments proposed for the County Borough, whether built by the local authority or by private enterprise, be smoke control areas from the outset."

On the 21st December the Council decided in principle to declare the following proposed housing estates to be smoke control areas; (1) Lower Farm, (2) Orlando Street, (3) Brookhouse Extension. These three estates together amount to about 154 acres and will involve approximately 1,300 dwellings.

A start has been made on the initial survey of the proposed central smoke control area.

In January 1959 Circular No. 5/59 was issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with the establishment of smoke control areas. This circular was in effect an invitation to local authorities to submit to the Minister their programme for the establishment of smoke control areas during the next five years; it also asked local authorities to indicate the target year by which they expected to complete their smoke control programme. In July 1959 the Council approved a programme for the establishment of smoke control areas; this envisaged that for the years 1960-1961 some 1,500 premises including dwellinghouses would be dealt with during each year and that during the years 1962-1963 the rate would be increased to 2,000 premises per year. The programme further envisaged that 40,000 premises would ultimately have to be dealt with and the target year for its completion was given as 1980, i.e., a 20 years programme.

(b) Industrial Premises

During the year 26 notifications of intention to instal fuel burning equipment were received as required under Section 3(3) of the Act; in four of these cases the Council's approval under section 3(2) of the Act was requested and granted.

Some minor infringements of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations 1958 were observed. The offenders were visited, reminded of their responsibilities under the Act, and advised that continued infringement of the Regulations may result in their being prosecuted.

Measurement of Air Pollution

Details of the results of chemical analyses of the contents of the deposit gauges and lead peroxide instruments are set out in Tables 7 and 8 on pages 69 and 70 and in the form of graphs on pages 74 and 75.

In March of this year a further volumetric apparatus was installed at the Disinfestation Centre, Station Street, Bloxwich, and these results, together with those from Walsall Town Centre appear in tabular form on page 71 and as graphs on pages 72 and 73.

All six deposit gauges, with the exception of the one at Sutton Road, show a slight decrease in pollution as compared with last year. The large increase in contamination in the Sutton Road area may well be accounted for by the erection of dwellinghouses on the Brookhouse and Orchard Hills Estates. In assessing the significance of the generally lower incidence of pollution it must be borne in mind that the summer of 1959 was exceptional as regards sunshine and duration.

Some idea of the contribution made by the domestic chimney to air pollution may be inferred from a study of the graphs dealing with the volumetric method of assessment (Page 72) and with the lead peroxide method of assessing sulphur dioxide (Page 15).

Both these graphs show a marked fall in pollution during the months April to September: during these months the use of domestic fires has largely diminished but industrial fuel consumption has remained virtually unchanged.

It must be emphasised, with the present rate of domestic and industrial expansion, the amount of pollution in the town is likely to rise in the near future unless adequtae steps are taken to ensure that all new developments are as far as practicable smokeless.

The amount of contamination by sulphur dioxide shows a slight decrease compared with 1958 and so does the amount of suspended impurity in the town centre as recorded by the volumetric apparatus at the Council House.

The department co-operates with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the investigation of atmospheric pollution, and the monthly results are forwarded to that department for collation.

In six areas of the town contamination by zinc oxide deposits is determined monthly in order to check emissions of this compound from certain metallurgical processes.

Once again I am indebted to the Sewage Works Manager (Mr. P. J. Barnes, B.Sc.) and his staff for carrying out all chemical analyses in connection with atmospheric pollution control and to Mr. J. C. W. Day, F.R.Met.Soc., for supplying meteorological information.

TABLE 7

Deposit Gauges—Records of Deposits, 1959

Deposits in tons per square mile per month

Month	Bloxwich (Station St.)	North (Transport Depot)	Central (Hatherton Road)	East (Sutton Road)	South (Brockhurst)	South-West (Alumwell School)
Jan.	13.30	16.14	26.95	11.47	12.67	10.67
Feb.	11.75	21.56	13.45	4.63	7.30	8.64
Mar.	22.63	26.61	19.65	10.80	15.13	14.53
April	15.36	17.65	19.25	18.70	12.13	12.98
May	10.04	13.80	16.76	12.74	8.29	10.00
June	14.18	19.46	23.11	18.00	13.43	13.16
July	10.32	14.78	17.76	9.73	9.89	9.61
Aug.	7.49	10.26	13.21	—	8.25	8.70
Sept.	10.14	12.20	14.81	9.58	10.39	8.64
Oct.	19.21	16.05	24.88	15.44	13.48	14.91
Nov.	20.33	20.31	21.00	11.23	12.64	12.17
Dec.	25.60	23.98	24.43	15.55	15.70	16.25
Totals	180.35	212.80	235.26	137.87	139.30	140.26
MONTHLY AVERAGE:—						
1959 ...	15.03	17.73	19.60	12.56*	11.61	11.69
1958 ...	15.31*	19.88*	20.85	9.56*	11.68	10.91
1957 ...	20.11	22.05	19.69***	9.44	13.81	13.55**
1956 ...	16.93**	22.78	20.98	10.81	14.73	13.74

* Averages for 11 months only.
** Averages for 10 months only.
*** Averages for 9 months only.

1959 Average for whole town ... ... 14.70 tons/sq. mile/month

1958 Average for whole town ... ... 14.70 tons/sq. mile/month

1957 Average for whole town ... ... 16.44 tons/sq. mile/month

1956 Average for whole town ... ... 16.66 tons/sq. mile/month

TABLE 8

Lead Peroxide Gauges—Record of Sulphur Pollution, 1959

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected expressed in Milligrammes of SO_3 per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Bloxwich	North (Transport)	Central (Hatherton Rd.)	East (Sutton Road)	South (Brockhurst)	Bloxwich Road	Manor Hospital	Dartmouth Avenue	Trees Road
Jan.	5.49	5.75	5.17	2.02	4.88	3.61	4.63	2.60	3.26
Feb.	4.07	—	4.43	1.63	4.40	3.47	3.87	2.59	2.56
Mar.	3.11	4.55	3.23	1.11	2.84	2.78	2.89	1.77	1.55
April	2.29	3.13	2.64	0.94	2.44	2.07	2.24	1.40	1.55
May	1.36	1.40	1.50	0.37	1.15	1.20	1.74	0.77	0.69
June	1.26	1.51	2.06	0.61	1.66	1.19	1.14	0.96	0.88
July	1.20	1.75	1.66	0.89	0.59	1.49	1.15	—	0.77
Aug.	1.01	1.19	1.34	0.32	0.99	0.82	1.02	—	0.53
Sept.	1.65	1.75	1.51	0.32	1.11	1.12	1.76	0.69	0.61
Oct.	2.20	2.67	2.94	1.07	2.61	1.89	2.40	1.48	1.54
Nov.	4.66	4.54	4.20	1.46	3.76	3.11	3.48	2.12	2.32
Dec.	3.76	5.13	3.89	1.37	3.95	2.80	2.99	2.23	2.21
Totals	32.06	33.37	34.57	12.11	30.38	25.55	29.31	16.61	18.47

MONTHLY AVERAGES (CRUDE):

1959:	2.67	3.03*	2.88	1.01	2.53	2.13	2.44	1.66**	1.54
1958:	3.11	3.06	3.14	0.95*	2.60	2.07	2.24	1.63	1.55
1957:	3.39**	3.84	3.45**	1.01	2.60	2.24	2.45	1.75	1.93**
1956:	3.09	3.14	3.44	1.07	2.79	2.34	2.57	1.86	1.63

* Averages for 11 months.
** Averages for 10 months.

1959	Average for whole town	2.21 M.Gms./100 sq. cms./day
1958	Average for whole town	2.26 M.Gms./100 sq. cms./day
1957	Average for whole town	2.52 M.Gms./100 sq. cms./day
1956	Average for whole town	2.44 M.Gms./100 sq. cms./day

ANNUAL RAINFALL

1959	26.01 inches
1958	34.39 inches
1957	27.97 inches
1956	26.84 inches

TABLE 9

VOLUMETRIC METHOD—RECORDED DAILY

Suspended impurity (smoke) expressed as milligrammes per 100 cubic metres of air.

Sulphur Dioxide expressed as parts per 100 million by volume.

MONTHLY AVERAGES 1959

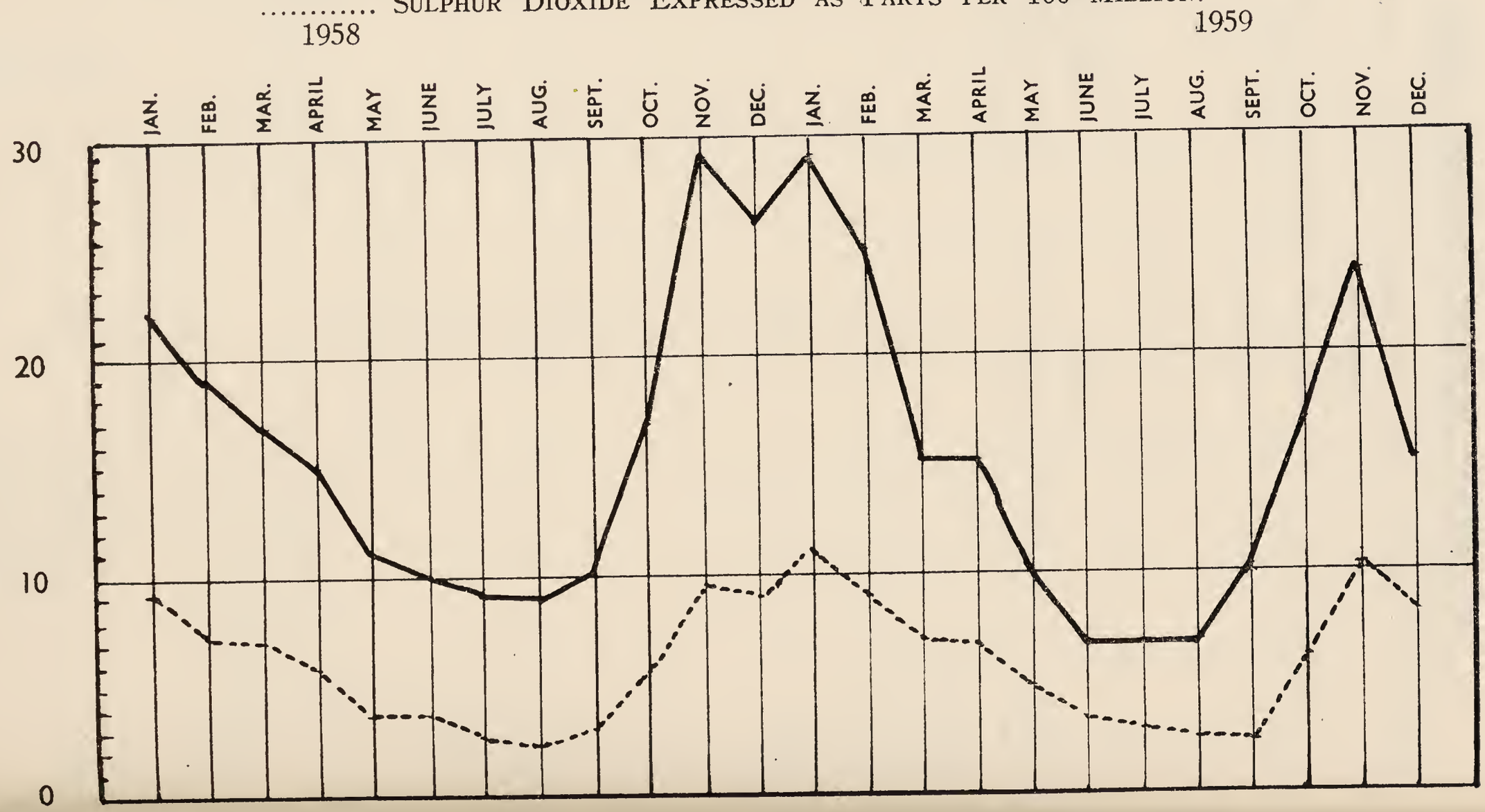
Month	Walsall Smoke	Walsall Sulphur Dioxide	Bloxwich Smoke	Bloxwich Sulphur Dioxide
January	29	11.3	—	—
February	25	9.1	—	—
March	15	7.1	13	3.3
April	15	6.9	12	2.9
May	10	5.3	8	1.9
June	7	3.7	5	1.2
July	7	3.1	5	1.2
August	7	2.8	5	1.2
September	10	2.6	13	4.7
October	17	6.3	14	2.5
November	24	10.2	21	5.7
December	15	8.2	16	5.3
Average for year—				
1959	15	6.4	11	3.0
1958	16	5.7	—	—
1957	20	8.0	—	—

VOLUMETRIC METHOD—WALSALL TOWN CENTRE

MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR 1958—59

——— Suspended Impurity (Smoke) Expressed as Milligrammes/100 Cu. Metres.

..... Sulphur Dioxide Expressed as Parts per 100 Million.

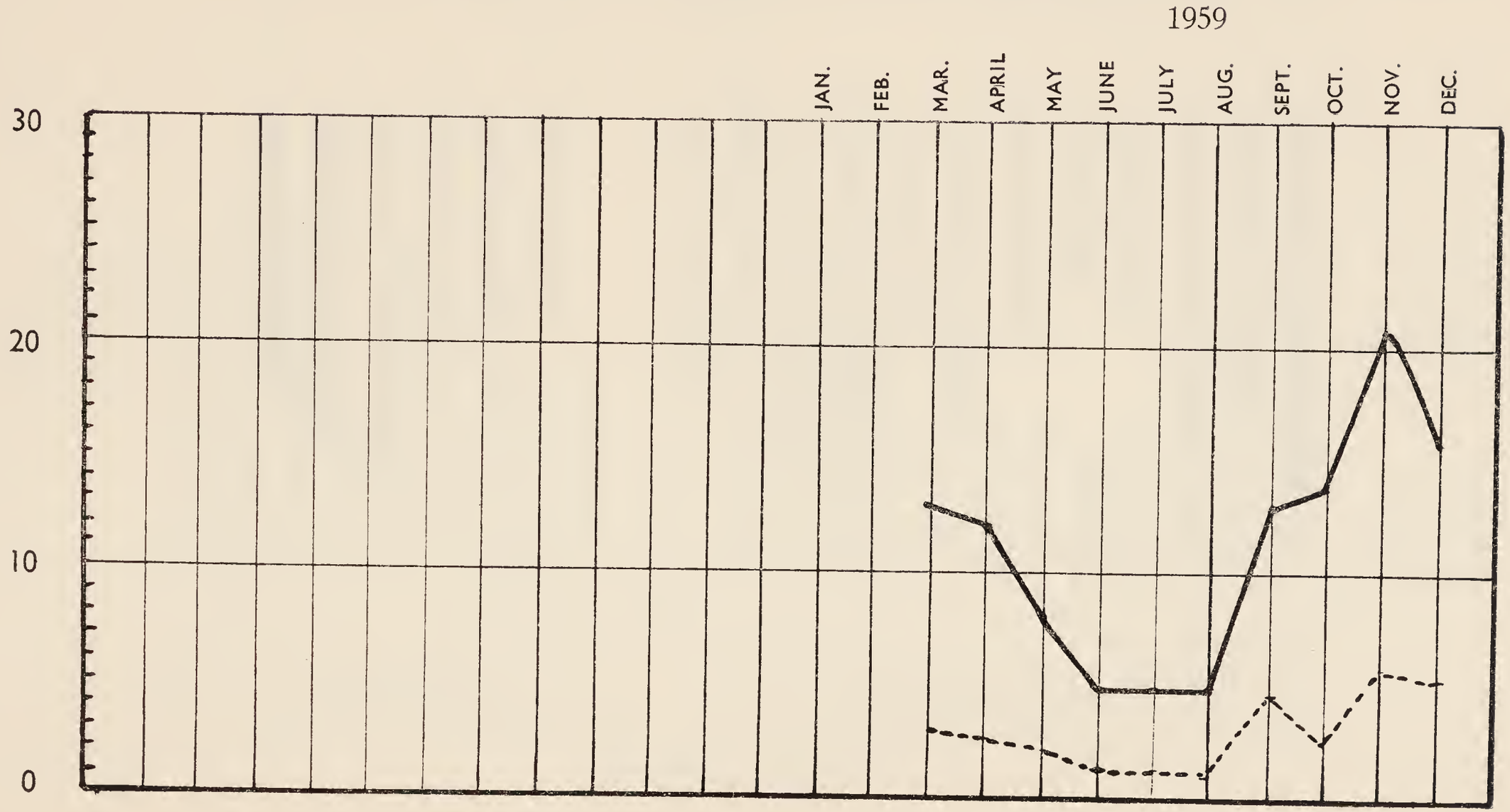


VOLUMETRIC METHOD—STATION STREET, BLOXWICH

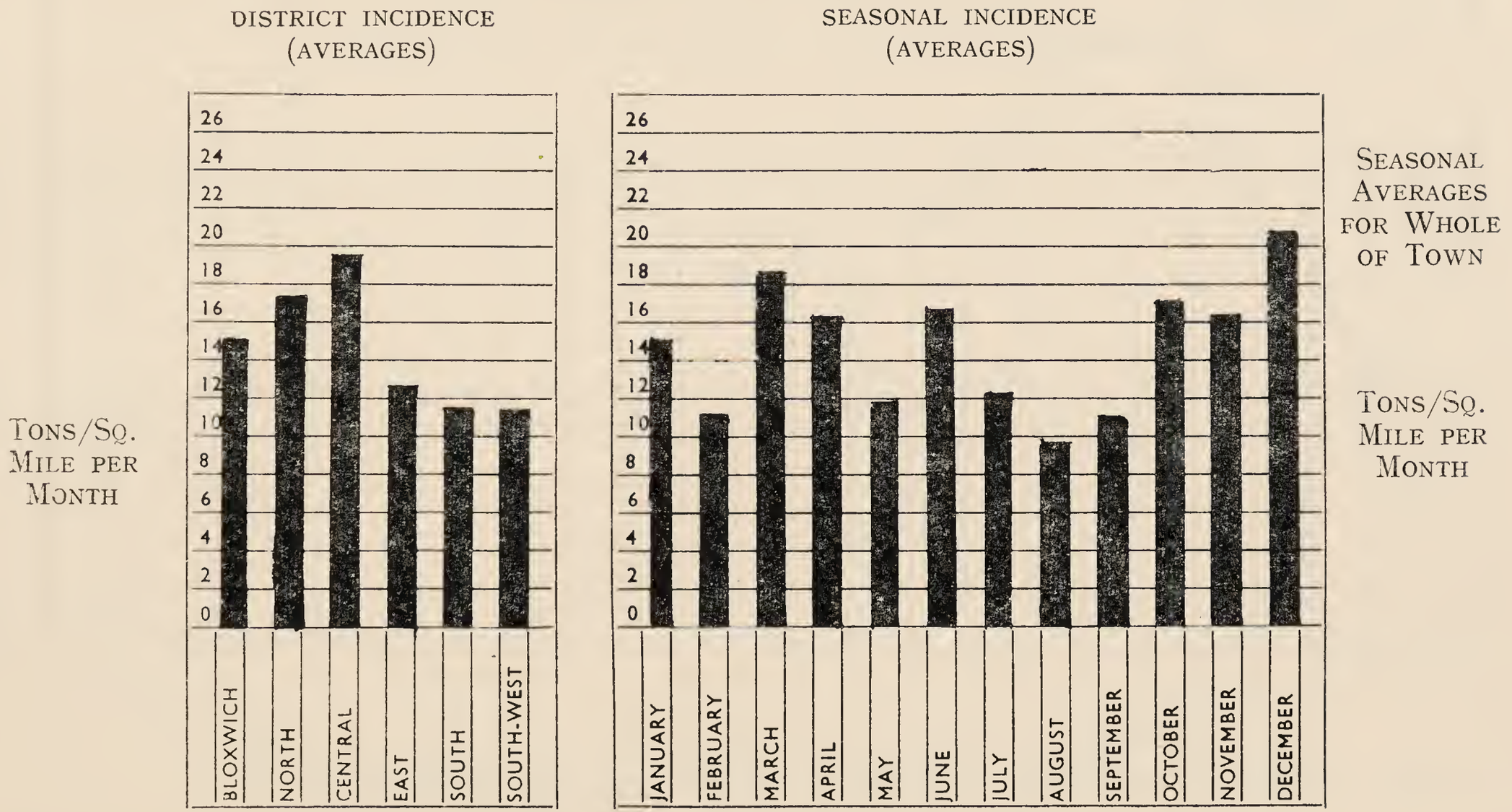
MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR 1959

..... Suspended Impurity (Smoke) Expressed as Milligrammes/100 Cu. Metres.

——— Sulphur Dioxide Expressed as Parts per Million.

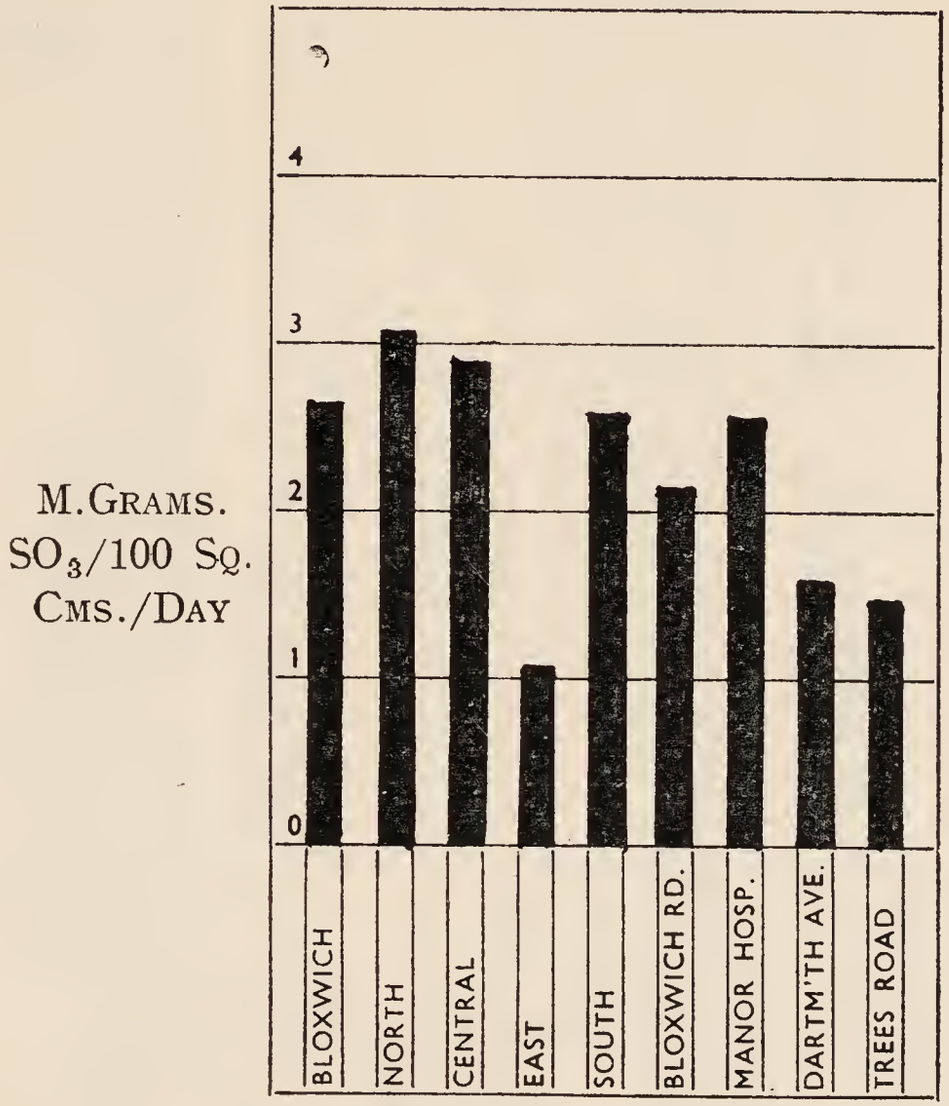


DEPOSIT GAUGES 1959

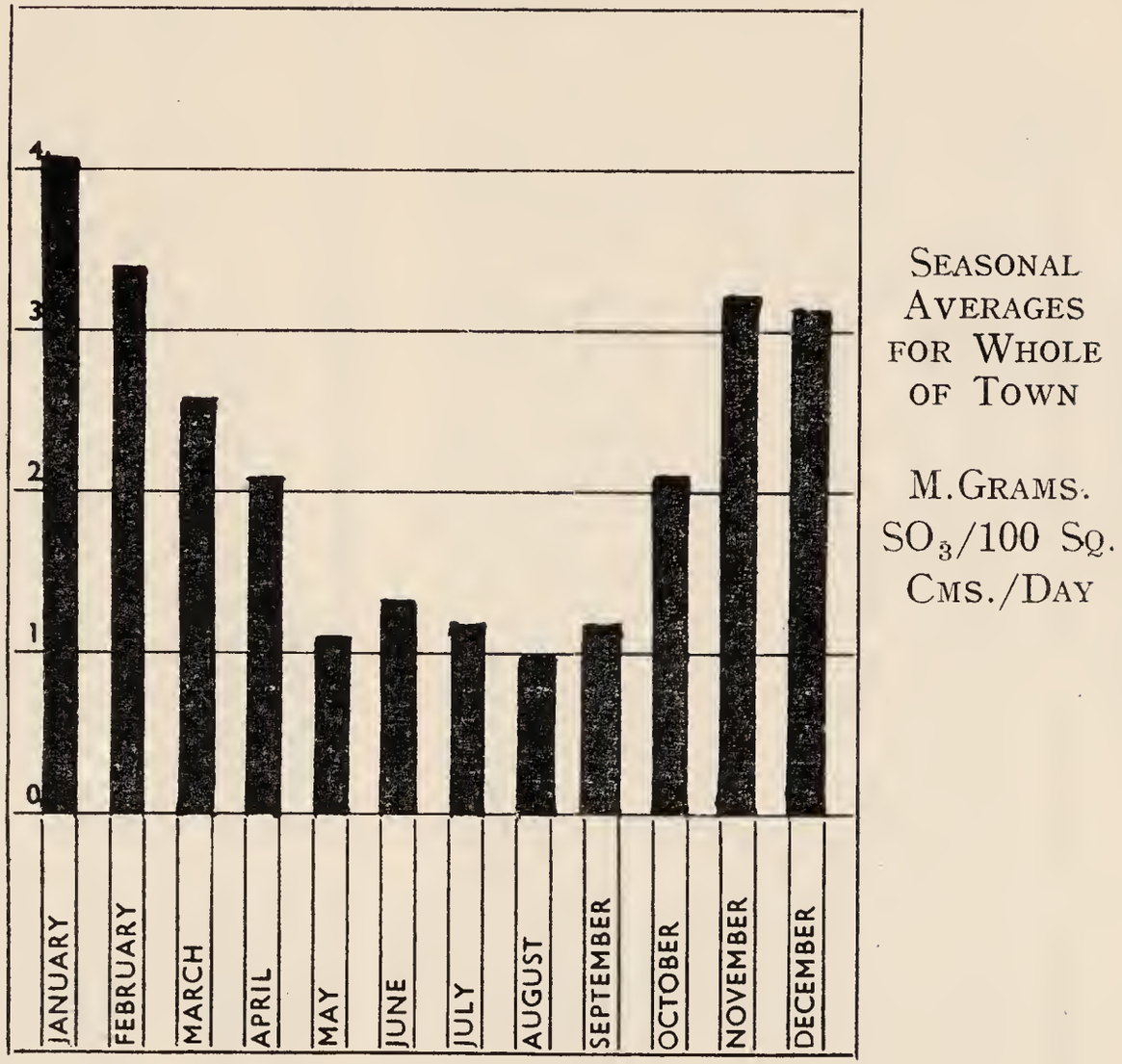


LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1959
(SULPHUR DIOXIDE)

DISTRICT INCIDENCE
(CRUDE AVERAGES)



SEASONAL INCIDENCE
(AVERAGE)



PART 6—DISINFESTATION

Hydrogen Cyanide and other Disinfestation Procedures

As has been the practice in Walsall for a number of years, all rehousing removals in connection with slum clearance are carried out by this department and the furniture from the affected properties is disinfested by hydrogen cyanide gas in the removal van. Such removals and treatments are carried out even if there is no evidence of vermin in the affected properties. In addition the furniture and effects of all prospective council house tenants are inspected for the presence of bed bugs, timber boring beetles or other insects and disinfestation treatment is carried out wherever appropriate. During the past year the furniture and effects of 274 families were disinfested by hydrogen cyanide gas. A further 272 council-owned houses were also treated with liquid or powder insecticides because of the presence of timber beetles, cockroaches, ants, bugs, fleas or other insects. The whole of the work so far referred to was carried out on behalf of the Housing Committee.

Because of insect infestations of various kinds, 143 privately owned houses were also disinfested.

Disinfection and Disinfestation of Articles

The steam disinfector at the Department's Depot at Bloxwich was in operation intermittently throughout the year for the treatment of bedding, clothing and other articles which had either been exposed to infection or had been in contact with vermin. Some work was also done on behalf of neighbouring local authorities who do not possess the necessary apparatus.

Rodent Control

The systematic poison baiting of the sewers in the town was carried out during the spring; because of pressure of other work it was unfortunately not possible to repeat this treatment in the autumn. Rodent Control measures were however carried out at Bescot and Brockhurst sewage works, the Arboretum and the Brook-course.

During the year there were 300 complaints of rat infestation and 265 of mice infestation; apart from visits of investigation paid by Inspectors these complaints entailed 2,203 visits by the department's workmen.

Income

While much of the work of disinfestation and rodent control, particularly on domestic premises, is carried out free of charge, charges are made in certain other cases.

During 1959 £347 was received for such work compared with £390 during the previous year. The £347 was made up as follows.—

General Disinfestation Work	£119
Rodent Control Work	£228

PART 7—GENERAL

Factories, Shops and Offices

There are now 842 factories on the depatrmental register compared with 834 on last year's register.

The visits paid to factories in connection with the Factories Act, 1937, are analysed in Tables 10 and 11 on pages 80 and 81 of the report. Because of pressure of work it was not possible to make regular visits to factories; most of the visits were made as a result of complaints received from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

During the year many plans of extensions and alterations to factories, shops and offices were examined in order to ensure that the premises concerned would comply with the appropriate requirements of the Factories Act, Food and Drugs Act and Shops Act. Visits were made to certain of these premises but these visits are not recorded in Tables 10 and 11.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926

During the year 11 samples of Fertilisers and two of Feedings Stuffs were submitted to the Agricultural Analyst. All the samples were informal. The results of all samples, with the exception of two fertilisers, were satisfactory.

Supply of Dustbins

The scheme under which the Council supplies dustbins to houses and makes an annual charge on the owner or occupier works tolerably well, but an increasing amount of time has to be spent in resolving disputes and in dealing with requests for permission to contract out. If these trends continue it may become necessary next year for the Health and Public Works Committee to review the scheme.

In consequence of action by this department 316 bins were supplied under the Council's scheme compared with 48 supplied by owners or occupiers. Many additional dustbins were of course bought privately and independently of any action by this department.

Cinemas

Visits to cinemas by inspectors have, because of pressure of other works, been limited to the investigation of complaints about sanitary accommodation and cleanliness.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The main aim of this Act is to ensure that filling materials used in upholstered and similar articles are clean. The Act requires premises on which filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys and baby carriages, etc., to be registered and premises on which rag flock is manufactured or stored for certain purposes to be annually licensed.

There are no premises in Walsall were rag flock is made or stored for distribution to registered premises, but there are three factories at which rag flock is used for various trade purposes and these premises are visited from time to time.

The Prescribed Analysts are Messrs. T. C. Williams and L. W. Ogden of Slumberland (Research) Ltd., Stockport. Six samples of rag flock were taken during the year and submitted to them for analysis; all conformed to the requirements of the Regulations.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act, which precludes a person from occupying a pet shop unless he holds a licence granted by the local authority, applies to all premises (including private houses) where the business of selling animals as pets is carried on.

During the year, 10 applications for licences were received and all were granted, subject to compliance with conditions.

Walsall Corporation Act, 1954. Section 81

This section of the Corporation Act requires all hairdressers and barbers and their premises to be registered with the Council. Seven new registrations were made during the year bringing the total number of registrations to 107.

PART 8—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

During 1959 legal proceedings were taken in respect of contraventions of the Public Health Act, 1936, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 and the Walsall Corporation Act, 1939.

The prosecutions under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936 were in connection with the abatement of Public Health nuisances and, together with the action under the Food Hygiene Regulations, were initiated by officers of this department. Those under Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relate to the giving or selling to persons under the age of 14 years, of articles of food or drink by persons engaged in collecting rags, old clothes or similar articles: these prosecutions were taken in consequence of reports by officers of the Borough Police Force.

Proceedings under Section 106 of the Walsall Corporation Act, 1939 were in connection with the unauthorised parking of caravans. It was necessary to prosecute a considerable number of occupiers for such offences and in most fines up to £3 were imposed with liability to imprisonment in default.

Further details of the prosecutions other than those relating to caravans are tabulated below.

Date of Proceedings	Act under which proceedings were taken	Result of Action
7th January	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94.	Two offences: £4 4s. advocate's fee and 8s. 6d. special costs awarded.
23rd June	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 154.	Two cases: £1 fine imposed in each case.
29th June	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94.	Nuisance order issued requiring work to be carried out forthwith; 8s. 6d. special costs awarded.
30th September	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94.	Nuisance Order issued for work to be carried out within 3 months.
20th November	Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, 8a. and 29b.	Two fines each of £12 10s. 0d.

TABLE 10

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1938

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of: Inspections (4)	Number of: Written notices (5)	Number of: Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	25	11	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	815	80	9	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	2	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		842	91	9	—	

TABLE 11

2.—CASES IN WHICH **DEFECTS** WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3	—	3	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10	6	6	—	6	—	10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	—	1	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL	—	10	10	—	10	—	—

OUTWORKERS

In accordance with Section 110 of the Act, reports were received that 14 persons were employed as outworkers; one of these was engaged in making wearing apparel, three in the manufacture of preparation of brass and brass articles and eleven in brush making. It was not necessary to take any action in connection with these outworkers.

REPORT

OF THE

PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year ended 31st December, 1959

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my report on the School Health Service for the year 1959. I have to inform you of further staffing changes among the doctors of the service during the year in question. Dr. J. R. White left us in May to return to his native Northern Ireland, and by the end of the year his post had not been filled. Of course, such a state of affairs is not peculiar to Walsall or even the West Midlands. Throughout the country it is a difficult matter to find men with the appropriate qualifications to make the public health service their career in medicine, to fill posts as school doctors and assistant medical officers of health. The D.P.H. is alone among the higher qualifications in that, in the majority of cases, it is not possible for the candidate to be employed gainfully while studying.

Dr. M. D. Wigley resigned in October to take up a post with the Save the Children Fund in Jordan. One must pay tribute to her in taking up such worthwhile work under conditions which, of necessity, mean giving up many of the material comforts of life in 20th century Britain. We welcomed Dr. W. I. McNeilly in October to take up Dr. Wigley's duties, and I am pleased to report that she is enjoying her work in the Service.

There are numerous advantages in a close working arrangement between the Health Department and the School Health Service. As you are aware, I am both Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer and the other doctors in the Health Department are also members of the School Health medical team. A good example of the advantages to be derived from the liason is the B.G.G. vaccination scheme which was initiated under local authority auspices in Walsall in May 1959. Vaccination against tuberculosis, of course, is a local health authority function, but in order to minimise scholastic disruption for the children involved—13 years of age and older—

the injections are being given in School. B.G.G. vaccination is a powerful weapon in the battle against tuberculosis. The latest views as to its efficacy† extend the period, for which a high level of protection is given, to at least 6½ years, and it is likely that, when the trial reaches its conclusion this opinion will be proved to have been conservative. In addition to its protective powers, the procedure is safe and virtually painless.

As foreshadowed in my report for 1958, the audiometric survey scheme was launched during the year under review. Educational retardation in the school child may be due to several causes in addition to limited mental ability. Deafness is one of them, and the aim of this survey, which will be a permanent feature of the School Health Service, is to discover this disability at an age (8 years) when children can give their full co-operation in the testing, but are still young enough not to have been permanently handicapped in their academic career should the acuity of their hearing be diminished. The system employed is for a nurse to visit the schools to carry out sweep tests with the audiometer. The sweep test is a technique which allows a number of children to be tested in a short time. Those who fail the sweep test are referred to a doctor at the school clinic who investigates the case in more detail, and a percentage of those referred, who are found to have a substantial degree of hearing loss, are sent to an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon for specialist opinion and appropriate treatment.

There was a dramatic amelioration of the problem of the provision of day school facilities for educationally subnormal children by the opening of the Castle School in Leamore in September, 1959. This is a modern school designed specifically for the purpose, and Miss A. Saban, the headmistress, and her staff are a group of dedicated specialist teachers. Even at this early stage an improvement is discernible in many youngsters admitted to the school. I am not referring to the purely educational aspect, as one would expect this under the circumstances, but to the less tangible, though none the less important, social adaptation of these children. Concomitant with the opening of the Castle School has been the substitution of remedial teaching for special classes in ordinary school. By this method, pupils with a degree of educational subnormality not severe enough to justify their being sent to ad hoc schools receive special tuition in the basic subjects in addition to participating in a normal school curriculum. As a result of the changes I have outlined, the waiting list of children awaiting placement in day special school at the end of the year was 33 as compared with 184 at the end of 1958, a change for the better in which there is good cause for satisfaction.

It will be remembered that in my last report I remarked that the present-day School Health Service has different problems from those it had to grapple with in its early days. One of these is the psychopathology of the child, a problem which received scant attention

† Second Report to the Medical Research Council (1959) Brit. M. J. 5149: 379—396.

50 years ago. Psychopathology, of course, deals with the abnormal or unhealthy in the mental processes of the individual, and in its application to the school child, or indeed any child, it is essential to recognise that the home is the most important single factor in determining whether a youngster is normal and well adjusted and therefore potentially good adult "material" or neurotic and, if untreated, a potential disturbed adult and parent with all that that entails. Let us not imagine that what I am discussing refers to a small fraction of the population. A child psychiatrist† maintains that 30 per cent of doctors' consultations are concerned with people who, while they may complain of bodily symptoms, are suffering from maladjustment, of varying degrees of severity, to the society in which they live.

It is of the utmost importance, therefore, to make provision for the handling of the outcome of neurosis in the home as it appears in behaviour difficulties and psychological disturbances in the school child. In the great majority of instances this is done through the child guidance service of the local education authority, but in a few areas the unit is centred on a local hospital. Whatever the mechanism, early and accurate diagnosis and good teamwork are essential, the team consisting of psychiatrist, psychologist, school doctor, general practitioner and educationist. The results of successful treatment are beneficial in two ways. Firstly, there is the immediate improvement in the child's educational progress and social adaptation; secondly, in achieving these benefits we help to a great extent in reducing the incidence of neurosis in suceeding generations.

During the year 6,843 children were examined under the periodic inspection scheme; this figure is exactly 1,000 in excess of the 1958 total. Of these, 6,824 were classified as satisfactory, equivalent to 99·72 per cent. The figure for 1958 was 98·78 per cent. This small improvement may be more apparent than real. There have been changes among the medical staff, and as the decision between satisfactory and unsatisfactory can be a fine one, it is probable that the variation is not significant. Again, the classification 'satisfactory' does not mean necessarily that a child is free from defect, but, that, all things considered, he is in good health.

In the field of dental health the incidence of caries among those examined was 77 per cent.—national average 68 per cent. One feels sympathy with the Principal School Dental Officer's wryly humorous remark, "attention to oral hygiene appears to be little practised, with the use of the toothbrush avoided as much as possible." Further comment would be superfluous.

There now follows a sectionlised account of the work of the Service.

† Howells, J. G. (1959) Public Health. Vol. LXXIII 419—424.

1.—SCHOOL HEALTH WORK

Periodic Medical Examinations.—My general review of the year deals with the statistics of this work, and I do not propose to repeat them here. I should like to say a word of appreciation of the improving standard of accommodation provided for medical examinations in schools. Like everybody else, a doctor works best in conditions as near to the ideal as possible, and most certainly the degree of rapport between the doctor on the one hand and child and parent on the other is improved if there is a reasonable standard of comfort for all concerned.

School Clinics.—These have a specialised function, namely to follow up children found at medical inspection to have defects and to deal with special problems in pupils presented by parents and teachers. Certainly there is provision for the treatment of minor illness and this is appreciated by parents, but the term "Minor Ailments Clinic" is a misnomer and therefore misleading.

There are now four school clinics in Walsall; Bradford Street. Field Road, Littleton Street and the newly-opened Beechdale. The sessional complement of the clinics is given below.

BRADFORD STREET CLINIC, WALSALL.

Medical	3 sessions weekly
Dressings	6 sessions weekly
Opthalmic	2 sessions weekly
Dental	10 sessions weekly

LITTLETON STREET CLINIC, WALSALL.

Dental	9 sessions weekly
Child Guidance	1—2 sessions weekly
Speech Therapy	6 sessions weekly

FIELD ROAD CLINIC, BLOXWICH.

Medical	2 sessions weekly
Dressings	3 sessions weekly
Dental	2 sessions weekly
Speech Therapy	3 sessions weekly

BEECHDALE CLINIC, WALSALL.

Medical	1 session weekly
Dressings	1½ sessions weekly
Speech Therapy	1 session weekly

During 1959, 1,903 children consulted the doctors, many having been referred for fuller investigation to the clinics from school inspections; others were brought by parents or sent by teachers for advice. Altogether 2,883 examinations were carried out.

In the Audiometric Survey, 1,384 children were examined with the sweep test for deafness. Of these, 90 were referred to the school doctors for a further investigation at a clinic, where a residual 24 were found to have such a degree of deafness as to merit their being sent to an Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon for specialistic opinion.

The school nurses hold their own sessions at the clinics for the dressing of minor injuries and the application of treatment prescribed by the medical staff. 1,302 children attended for these purposes and a total of 5,664 attendances was made.

Handicapped Children.—Not unnaturally, among the last people to recognise that a child is handicapped are his parents. This is due to a combination of factors. Firstly, there is esprit de famille or "What will our friends think?" Secondly, in the case of mental handicap, there is a confusion between growing older and growing wiser, this leading to a further confusion between the fruits of experience and those of basic mental ability. Finally, there is the factor of parental love of, and the desire to protect the young son or daughter from the outside world. Yet it is the earnest desire of those engaged in the ascertainment of handicapped children to do so as early as possible while, at the same time, working with parental co-operation. Like all ideals this combination often cannot be obtained and it is better to hasten slowly in some instances rather than have parents "talked into" agreement from which they will derive feelings of guilt due to their not having been convinced of the rightness of the course of action proposed.

During 1959, recommendations of the medical staff resulted in 7 children receiving education in their own homes, 7 being admitted to Residential Schools for Delicate or Physically Handicapped children, 14 to Residential Schools for E.S.N. children, 4 to Residential Schools for the Maladjusted and 1 being transferred from a school for the Maladjusted to a school for Epileptics.

At the end of the year only 33 children were awaiting places in day special schools for E.S.N. children, compared with 184 at the end of the previous year. The long awaited opening of the Castle Day Special School has greatly relieved this very urgent problem. 134 children are at present accommodated at the Day Special School and this number will be increased in September of next year. 39 children were removed from the waiting list after further examination and/or attendance at Special Classes.

2.—PUPILS EXAMINED

The following table shows the average heights and weights of all pupils medically inspected during 1959:—

		Number			Height, ins.			Weight, lbs.	
		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls		Boys	Girls
New Entrants	(5+)	869	823	...	43.2″	43.0″	...	44.0	42.4
Juniors	(10—11)	872	857	...	55.0″	55.0″	...	75.7	75.5
Seniors	(12—13)	792	837	...	59.1″	59.2″	...	91.1	95.6
Seniors	(14—15)	815	775	...	63.1″	61.8″	...	110.5	111.9

It is interesting to note that the average weight of school-leaving boys in 1957 was 110.2 lbs.; in 1958, 114.3 lbs. and this year has returned to very nearly the 1957 average. The average weight of school-leaving girls has increased by 1.4 lbs. A considerable number of both boys and girls have attended the clinics during the year for advice regarding overweight, in most cases largely due to excessive consumption of carbohydrates.

3.—REFERRALS FOR SPECIALIST OPINION AND THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES

875 children were referred for opthalmic opinion on account of errors of refraction and squint, and spectacles were prescribed in 724 cases. 234 children received operative treatment for diseased tonsils and adenoids, 3 for ear conditions, 5 for other nose and throat conditions and 12 referrals received treatment for a miscellaneous group of conditions.

The school nurses have added to their range of activities. In the B.C.G. scheme, two of them have been trained in the performance of the Heaf Test which is carried out three days before the doctor decides whether or not a child requires vaccination. Their doing this work is a valuable saving of medical time. Another nurse is trained in audiometry techniques; she does the Sweep Test to which I referred earlier in my report.

During the year, the nurses made 1,467 domicilary visits.

4.—UNCLEANLINESS

The assistant nurses have again been able to devote most of their time to the work of cleanliness inspections in schools, and a total number of 55,137 inspections was carried out. It is disappointing to report that the result of this continued concentrated effort shows little or no improvement in the general standard of cleanliness. 1,802 individual children were found to be unclean during the year; of these 726 children were found to have nits on one occasion only, and 88 children were found to be infested with lice. It would appear that, though much effort has been made to effect an improvement, the "hard-core" of persistently unclean children remains stationary and is the cause of occasional spread to others. D.D.T. head lotion has been distributed free of charge and the assistant nurses have followed up their work in schools with home visits wherever necessary, advising parents and, in all cases of difficulty, assisting with actual cleansing. Head teachers have continued to give the utmost co-operation and, in the majority of schools where the incidence of uncleanliness is high re-inspection visits are not only tolerated but welcomed and appreciated.

The incidence of scabies has also considerably increased. 32 children being treated during the year, compared with 18 cases in 1958, and only 8 cases in 1957. Each child or family attended by appointment and the majority were satisfactory after two treatments though in some half dozen severe cases four treatments were found to be necessary

5.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diptheria.—No case of diptheria occurred in Walsall during the year.

1,188 children under the age of 5 years, and 1,261 between the ages of 5 and 15 years, a total of 2,449, were immunised against the disease. 1,365 children received a reinforcing or "booster" injection. The good response to immunisation in schools has been maintained.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 82 cases of scarlet fever amongst school children, as compared with 95 in 1958. No deaths were recorded.

Measles.—619 school children were notified as suffering from measles, as compared with 443 in 1958, but there were no deaths.

Other Diseases.—No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during 1959. There were 200 cases of whooping cough, 10 of primary pneumonia, 6 of influenzal pneumonia, 23 of dysentery and 4 of food poisoning.

6.—SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

(a)	No of Secondary Schools		12
	County Schools	10	
	Voluntary Schools	2	
(b)	No of Primary Schools		49
	County Schools	36	
	Voluntary Schools	13	
(c)	Nursery Schools		3

(d) Reedswood Park Day Special School for 60 pupils.

(e) Beacon Residential School for 80 Educationally Subnormal boys.

(f) Castle Day Special School for Educationally Subnormal Pupils.

The number of pupils on the register in January, 1960 was 20,646, as follows: Primary and Secondary Schools, 16,931; Queen Mary's Schools, 943; T. P. Riley School, 807; Edward Shelley High School, 557; Joseph Leckie School, 1,019; Nursery Schools, 116; Reedswood Park Day Special School, 61; Castle Day Special School, 134; Beacon Residential School, 78.

7.—PHYSICAL EDUCATION

My thanks are due to Mr. A. J. Spears, Physical Training Organiser for the following report on Physical Education in Schools:—

"In many respects the past year has been one of the most gratifying for some time insofar as practically all school departments have been able to experiment and work with interesting and challenging forms of equipment, and furthermore have been able for many months on end to enjoy the pleasure of working out of doors in the minimum of clothing in congenial weather. Portable equipment was invariably to be found out in the playgrounds where the beneficial effects of exercise under the stimulus of sunshine and fresh air must have had a tonic effect on the general wellbeing of our pupils. A most pleasing sight in many infant departments is to see children at physical exercises dressed for the part as well as their older brothers and sisters, and this can mean quite a lot of propaganda from Heads of those departments since fond mothers often think that their babies should always be well wrapped up.

Many secondary departments are introducing and applying some additional strengthening and stamina producing activities through weight training. This has no relationship to weight lifting and within certain limits, used judiciously, some excellent results are forthcoming. Some secondary departments are now also giving instruction in Trampoline work, which forms a good group or Club activity. The teachers in charge, after undergoing a course of instruction, have very successfully taught their pupils to achieve a most commendable standard of performance after only three or four months' instruction. It is probably true to say that we are virtually pioneers of trampoline work in the schools for the West Midlands area at any rate, and the overall effects of this work are being watched with interest.

Games and athletics have been maintained to our accepted high standards and our picked pupils in all branches—Football, Netball, Athletics, Swimming, Basket Ball, who have represented the town in County and other competitions have brought nothing but credit on themselves and those responsible for their coaching.

The swimming instruction followed the normal pattern this year up to the end of the summer term, but there has been a slight drop in winter life-saving instruction since September as only the Bloxwich Bath is open, and this is rather remote for the majority of the schools.

It is indeed good to report that last year's highest ever number of successes in swimming tests has again been surpassed this year, and also that much of the lost ground on Life Saving Awards has been made good. We attach tremendous importance to the swimming side of the physical education programme and it is perhaps pertinent to mention that during the year much progress has been made towards the work of conversion of the Sandbank Central Kitchen at Bloxwich to a teaching bath, and this should be ready for use in the middle of 1960. This bath will enable us to open the door to swimming instruction to much lower age groups, i.e. infant classes.

The usual summary of swimming awards with comparative figures for 1958 is given below:—

SWIMMING.

	Boys		Girls	
	1959	1958	1959	1958
1st Class ...	58 ...	67 ...	56 ...	44
2nd Class ...	155 ...	165 ...	110 ...	140
3rd Class ...	282 ...	220 ...	181 ...	145
Proficiency ...	244 ...	213 ...	159 ...	165
Learners ...	290 ...	287 ...	320 ...	287

Total boys and girls, 1958 1,739
Total boys and girls, 1959 1,855

ROYAL LIFE-SAVING SOCIETY AWARDS.

	Boys		Girls	
	1959	1958	1959	1958
Award of Merit	3 ...	2 ...	— ...	2
Instructor ...	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Scholar Instructor	— ...	— ...	2 ...	—
Bar to Bronze Cross ...	— ...	1 ...	— ...	1
Bronze Cross ...	1 ...	5 ...	1 ...	—
Bar to Bronze Medallion ...	2 ...	4 ...	1 ...	1
Bronze Medallion	31 ...	11 ...	17 ...	31
Intermediate Certificate ...	42 ...	14 ...	45 ...	22
Elementary Certificate ...	35 ...	22 ...	38 ...	6
Unigrip Certificate	5 ...	2 ...	16 ...	—

Total boys and girls, 1958 124
Total boys and girls, 1959 239

8.—PROVISION OF MEALS AND MILK FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Miss R. M. Norton, Schools Meals Organiser, has been good enough to supply a report on this subject.

"The total number of School meals provided during the past year was 1,119,772 of which 903,632 were paid and 216,140 free. These figures show an increase of 25,430 over the figures for 1958, and indicate that more children are availing themselves of the School Meals Service. During the year, the number of meals consumed has not been greatly affected by illness, and it is hoped that the numbers will continue to increase.

Three new kitchens were opened in September. At the W. R. Wheway School, at the new Beechdale Junior School and at the Castle Special School, all using the 'family' type of service. After some staffing problems these kitchens are now working smoothly.

The pupils at the Castle Special School are required to stay for a midday meal, consequently all meals are provided at a reduced rate. The 'family' type of service has also been introduced into Alumwell Junior School, Hillary Street Junior School and Elmore Green Junior School.

Due to the opening of new kitchens, fewer meals were required from Bloxwich Central Kitchen and the Kitchen was consequently closed in October. Staff and equipment were transferred to the Harden School Kitchen, which was closed in 1952, and it is now providing 560 meals daily, of which, 400 are container meals. There is now only one Central Kitchen left in the Borough. The policy of having one kitchen for each school, although more expensive in operation than Central Kitchens, does ensure that a better standard of meal is provided.

A new thermostatic time-controlled gas heater was tested satisfactorily at the Wolverhampton Road Schools dining room in Hollyhedge Lane. As a result two similar gas heaters have been installed, one at the Chuckery Secondary School dining room and the other at the Blakenall Heath Infants School dining room.

The 'Milk-in-Schools Scheme' continues to operate satisfactorily. The latest figures as returned to the Ministry of Education and relating to a day in October are:—

Maintained Schools	17,008	one-third pints—87%
Independant Schools ...	552	one-third pints—89%

of the children in school on that day.

9.—HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

The following table shows the number of handicapped children who were in attendance at special schools (day and residential) in January, 1960:—

DEAF AND PARTIALLY DEAF.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Royal School for the Deaf, Birmingham	4	2	6
Royal West of England School for the Deaf, Exeter	—	1	1
Rangemore Hall, Needwood (Partially Deaf)	—	2	2
Moseley Road Day School for the Deaf, Birmingham	1	—	1
The Mount Deaf School, Stoke-on-Trent	1	1	2

	Boys	Girls	Total
Blind and Partially Sighted.			
Royal Institute for the Blind, Birmingham	1	2	3
Exhall Grange, Warwickshire (Partially sighted)	1	—	1
Sunshine Home Nursery School, Shrewsbury	1	—	1
Maladjusted.			
Shenstone Lodge (under West Bromwich L.E.A.)	1	1	2
Farmhill House, Stroud	1	—	1
Shotton Hall, Shrewsbury	2	—	2
St. Hilliards, Mickleton Manor ...	3	—	3
Educationally Sub-normal.			
Beacon School, Lichfield	46	—	46
St. Francis School, Monyhull	—	5	5
Townhill Park, Southampton	—	4	4
Allerton Priory, Liverpool	—	1	1
Town Thorns, Near Rugby	—	5	5
Wavendon House, Near Bletchley ...	—	3	3
Standon Bowers, Stafford	1	—	1
The Sheiling, Ringwood	—	1	1
Farmhill House, Stroud	1	—	1
Meadow House	1	—	1
Castle Day Special School			134
Physically Handicapped and Delicate.			
Reedswood Park Day School	32	29	61
Carlson House Day School for Spastics, Birmingham	2	1	3
Exhall Grange, Warwickshire	—	1	1
St. Catherine's Home, Ventor ...	2	—	2
Fairfield House, Broadstairs	—	4	4
Burton Hill House, Malmesbury ...	—	1	1
Penhurst, Chipping Norton	1	—	1
Baskerville, Birmingham	—	1	1
Hinwick Hall, Wellingborough ...	1	—	1
Epileptic.			
Maghull Homes for Epileptics, Liverpool	1	—	1

During the year a further 46 children were ascertained to be educationally subnormal and recommended for admission to special schools. 134 children have been admitted to the Castle Day Special School and this number will be increased in September 1960. Of the remaining children on the waiting list for admisson to Special Schools for E.S.N. pupils, 27 reached school leaving age during

the year, 40 were removed from the waiting list after further exam ination, a number of them being transferred to remedial teaching, and 4 left the area of this authority, leaving only 38 awaiting placement.

Speech Therapy.

In January 1959, 97 children were receiving treatment at Littleton Street and Field Road Speech Therapy Clinics and a further 79 children commenced treatment during the year. The total number of attendances made by these 176 children was 2,073. Whilst rather more children received treatment than during the previous year, the number of actual attendances is less, this being due largely to the absence on leave of the Speech Therapist on the occasion of her marriage and a second period of absence due to illness.

101 children were discharged during the year and 75 remained under teratment at the end of the year. At that time the waiting list was reduced to 41.

The reduction in the waiting list has, in the part, been achieved by excluding from treatment children whose parents appeared to be totally disinterested. In every such case, however, parents have first been visited at home and every possible endeavour made to obtain their co-operation. The majority of parents continue to give willing co-operation in supervising their children's exercises at home and in ensuring that the children attend regularly for treatment.

With the opening of the new Beechdale Clinic a weekly speech therapy session was arranged there and has been appreciated greatly by the parents of children living on the Beechdale Estate, who have been able to save the cost and time previously spent in travelling to Littleton Street Clinic.

The Speech Therapist also now attends the new Castle Day Special Schol for E.S.N. pupils where five children at present are receiving treatment. The enthusiastic co-operation of the staff already has produced most satisfactory results.

189 parents were interviewed at the clinics during the year. These contacts are regarded as invaluable for without intelligent parental assistance a child's rate of progress inevitably is reduced considerably. Preliminary interviews were arranged as far as possible for parents of children on the waiting list, and advice was given as to how the children could best be helped whilst awaiting treatment.

Child Guidance.

Our arrangement with West Bromwich Local Education Authority has continued, and their Educational Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker attended our Littleton Street Clinic two sessions weekly during the early part of the year, but, latterly, this has had to be

reduced to one session weekly due to shortage of staff. Both the Educational Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker have visited schools and homes in Walsall. There are cases, of course, where the special skills of a psychiatrist are necessary; such children attend the West Bromwich Child Guidance Clinic. In all 43 children received treatment during the year.

10.—BEACON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

I thank Mr. W. G. Weedon, the Headmaster of the Beacon Residential School for Educationally Subnormal Children for his report on the work of the School in 1959:—

"Following rather a large intake of young children and new staff the last year has been devoted to re-establishing methods, purpose and standards. Our present range of age and I.Q. is:—

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Years.

	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
No. f boys	1	1	9	9	11	11	12	10	16

I.Q. DISTRIBUTION.

	50–60	60–70	70–80	80–90
No. of boys	6	37	33	4

Background physical development has required special attention. The general provision of a pleantiful and balanced diet, good clothing and regular hours, supported by vigorous and varied activities with healthy routines, have been maintained by a hard working staff. In particular cases the following has been accomplished:—

TREATMENT BY	No. of visits
Dental Clinic, Walsall	98
Eye Clinic, Walsall	19
HOSPITALS.	
Eyes	17
Orthodontic	3
Orthopædic	6
Casualties	4
General	15
Number of cases attended by Local Doctor	100

A programme of immunisation against Poliomyelitis and Diptheria has been completed and our group immunity improved by a Chickenpox epidemic. Influenza put 54 boys and 10 staff in bed simultaneously.

It is of interest to note that 24 out of the 80 boys wear glasses; 5 have a degree of epilepsy; 3 may be said to be obese (diet) and we average 2·8 noctural enuretics per night from a potential of 14 plus 1 encropitic. The improving physical condition of new boys is a source of satisfaction to all concerned.

Background emotional development has also required special effort. Essentially the individuals problem in a residential community highlights difficulties and yet, paradoxically enough, can provide a climate conducive of improvement. The School can give stability and security in its arrangements and way of doing things. Groups provide therapeutic opportunities with Art, Swimming, Puppets, Dancing, Pottery and other crafts. Individuals obtain an immediate assessment of their emotional and intellectual state for the right degree of assistance or restraint to be excercised and in the right humour. It is this latter aspect that makes tenacious demands upon the energy and skill of our staff. During the year two boys were removed from the School; one lower grade with temperamental complications and and the other a relatively high grade boy who was reassessed as moral defective. These cases apart, some very good work has been achieved, the demeanour of the School drawing exceptional comment both on our Open occasions and recently by two members of H.M. Inspectorate who spent a day with us.

Classroom work continues to derive help and stimulus from the above mentioned resources. Our July testing programme revealed very good progress but the November tests suggest a period of consolidation. Teaching Staff feel that the year's work has achieved greater stability and homogenity, and now provides a firm base from which to pursue individual deficiencies and difficulties with particular techniques. The following figures indicate the November levels of attainment: —

Group.	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
Average Age	15.3	13.7	12.1	12.2	9.7
Average Mental Age ...	10.2	9.7	8.8	8.0	6.8
Average Reading Age ...	11.0	9.5	8.4	5.4	5.0
Average Arithmetic Age ...	9.1	8.0	7.8	7.1	—

Staff absences include 688 hours for domestic workers, 10 days for teachers and 209 days for ancillary staff, plus half-time arrangements for one post for one term. Staffing arrangements at the end of the year present an encouraging situation. The earlier absences and difficulties have forged a very desirable flexibility and tolerance amongst staff and boys. Smooth running arrangements unpunctuated by petty crises reflect favourably towards efficiency and high standards.

An increasing number of recent leavers revisit the school and suggest a high proportion of successful employment. More accurate

information will be available later. Parent/School relationships occasion few difficulties and we are pleased to have a Supplementary Year Student doing a survey on this situation.

During the year, 14 of the 20 admissions came from Walsall, 15 boys left on attaining the age limit, and 2 boys were excluded from school."

11.—DENTAL TREATMENT

The Principal School Dental Officer, Mr. R. E. Morgan, L.D.S., has supplied this interesting description of the work of the School Dental Service:—

"For part of the year, in addition to the two whole-time dentists, the services of a part-time officer were available, and this was reflected in the greater volume of conservative work. Unfortunately, the appointment terminated in July, due to the claims of private practice. There appears little prospect of an increase in the present staff, a situation which must be accepted under the present conditions, despite frequent advertising and the use of modern equipment. During the year, a fourth clinic was opened on the Beechdale estate, fully equipped, where treatment is available for the surrounding school population.

The number of children inspected during the year was 6,763, of whom 5,271 required attention, a rate of 77 per cent. compared with the national average of 68 per cent. Dental defects continued at a high level generally both in extent and degree, but were less marked in those schools receiving annual routine inspection and treatment. Emphasis must again be placed on preventative measures, stressing the need for a well-balanced diet, rich in calcium (milk, butter, eggs, cheese, etc.) and the reduction in the present excessive consumption of starches and sugars, particularly in their refined state. Attention to oral hygiene appears to be little practised, with the use of the tooth-brush avoided as much as possible.

There was an increased output in conservative treatment, fillings in permanent teeth numbering 3,277, with 2,385 teeth saved, while extractions comprised 1,200 permanent and 4,272 temporary teeth. With the retention of the medical staff of the previous year, the clinics were again able to provide expert facilities in general anaesthetics, these being administered on 2,119 occasions. Cases of irregularity requiring appliances were referred to the Birmingham Dental Hospital, where specialised attention was available. These numbered 57, while 15 partial dentures were fitted through the clinics for children having lost front teeth.

The endeavours of the year showed substantial returns, but these were quite inadequate for the present urgent requirements. I would thank Mrs. Miller and the staff for their work and co-operation during the year."

12.—HEALTH EDUCATION

Our work in this field has not been of a spectacular nature, but the drip of water on a rock can have surprising results as we all know, and we can leave it to mass media such as television to make the sensational, even if occasionally misguided, impact.

An excellent example of how a fortuitous circumstance can bring about public prevention-consciousness was provided in the Spring by the regrettable death of a young footballer from poliomyelitis. Almost immediately there was a tremendous upsurge in demand for vaccination against this disease though it was not so marked among school children, as this group had been catered for so well previously.

The normal methods of approach to the children and their parents have continued, namely at school medicals, school clinics, courses in mothercraft to senior girls, involving lectures and demonstrations in infant welfare clinics and the provision of lecture facilities to parent-teacher associations on request. A novel feature was the use in the Summer of a B.B.C. television "Facts and Figures" film on Cancer of the Lung and Smoking. Showings were arranged in schools where the head teachers were agreeable, and a doctor was available to answer questions from the audience.

13.—CONCLUSION

I renew my thanks to the Education Committee, the Director of Education and his staff and the head teachers of Walsall schools for their co-operation, and would include in my thanks, the doctors, nurses and administrative staff of the Service, notably Miss C. Dickenson, for a year of good work. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Evans, my Deputy, who is responsible for the preparation of this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS ROSS,

Principal School Medical Officer.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1959

PART 1

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained and Assisted Primary and Secondary Schools (including Nursery and Special Schools)

A. Periodic Medical Inspections.

Age Groups (Year of Birth)	Number of pupils Inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1955 and later	193	193	100·00	—	—
1954	1,702	1,698	99·76	4	0·24
1948	1,729	1,723	99·65	6	0·35
1946	1,629	1,627	99·88	2	0·12
1944 and earlier	1,590	1,583	99·56	7	0·44
Total ...	6,843	6,824	99·72	19	0·28

B. Pupils Found to Require Treatment at Periodic Medical Inspection.

(excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin)

Age Groups Inspected (Year of Birth)	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any other conditions recorded in Part II	Total individual pupils
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1955 and later	1	9	10
1954	9	154	158
1948	103	115	212
1946	111	121	222
1944 and earlier	60	129	184
Total ...	284	528	786

C. Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	2,422
Number of Re-Inspections	1,321
Total ...	3,743

D. Infestation with Vermin.

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	55,137
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	1,802
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued	—
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued	—

PART II

Defects Found by Medical Inspection During the Year.

A. Periodic Inspections.

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections				Others		Total	
	Entrants		Leavers					
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	15	39	34	20	57	67	106	126
Eyes—a. Vision ...	9	9	60	93	215	157	284	259
b. Squint ...	23	36	2	4	1	16	26	56
c. Other ...	5	3	2	2	4	4	11	9
Ears—a. Hearing ...	3	10	4	8	8	20	15	38
b. Otitis Media	4	39	8	30	6	65	18	134
c. Other ...	8	5	18	2	14	12	40	19
Nose and Throat ...	49	272	13	21	67	162	129	455
Speech	14	71	—	2	8	24	22	97
Lymphatic Glands ...	2	33	1	4	1	22	4	59
Heart	1	36	—	16	—	40	1	92
Lungs	10	89	3	16	3	71	16	176
Developmental—								
a. Hernia ...	—	2	2	2	—	11	2	15
b. Other ...	—	39	9	12	23	106	32	157
Orthopædic—								
a. Posture ...	1	29	15	25	39	118	55	172
b. Feet ...	4	76	14	26	11	42	29	144
c. Other ...	3	47	7	15	15	66	25	128
Nervous System—								
a. Epilepsy ...	—	3	—	6	1	4	1	13
b. Other ...	1	4	—	2	1	10	2	16
Psychological—								
a. Development	2	28	—	—	2	19	4	47
b. Stability ...	4	16	3	5	1	17	8	38
Abdomen	2	15	—	2	—	12	2	29
Other	9	63	8	30	4	44	21	137

TABLE 3.—continued

B. Special Inspections.

Defect or Disease	Special Inspections	
	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Skin	166	16
Eyes—a. Vision ...	64	37
b. Squint ...	7	4
c. Other ...	75	1
Ears—a. Hearing ...	69	5
b. Otitis Media	25	9
c. Other ...	57	—
Nose and Throat ...	109	17
Speech	7	1
Lymphatic Glands ...	13	3
Heart	9	6
Lungs	58	7
Developmental—		
a. Hernia ...	—	1
b. Other ...	18	13
Orthopædic—		
a. Posture ...	15	16
b. Feet ...	14	13
c. Other ...	92	8
Nervous System—		
a. Epilepsy ...	—	3
b. Other ...	24	2
Psychological—		
a. Development	20	2
b. Stability ...	59	3
Abdomen	3	1
Other	541	7

PART III

TREATMENT TABLES

A. Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint.

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	75
Errors of Refraction (including squint) ...	875
Total ...	950
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	724

B. Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat.

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
Received operative treatment:—	
(a) for diseases of the ear	3
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	234
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	5
Received other forms of treatment ...	12
Total ...	254
Total number of pupils in Schools who are known to have been provided with hearing aids:—	
(a) In 1959	3
(b) In previous years	3

C. Orthopæic and Postural Defects.

	No. of cases known to have been treated
(a) Pupils treated at Clinics or Out-patient Departments	564
(b) Pupils treated at school for postural defects	—
Total ...	564

D. Diseases of the Skin
(excluding Uncleanliness for which see Part I, D).

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Ringworm—	
(i) Scalp	—
(ii) Body	—
Scabies	32
Impetigo	165
Other skin diseases	245
Total ...	442

E. Child Guidance Treatment.

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics ...	43

F. Speech Therapy.

	No. of cases known to have been treated
Pupils treated by Speech Therapists	176

G. Other Treatment Given.

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with
(a) Pupils with minor ailments	808
(b) Pupils who received convalescent treatment under School Health Service arrangements	167
(c) Pupils who received B.C.G. Vaccination ...	1,826
(d) other than (a), (b) and (c)—	
(i) Minor Eye Defects	52
(ii) Minor Ear Defects	30
(iii) Post-Tonsillectomy Breathing Exercises	198
Total ...	3,081

PART IV

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—		
	(a) At Periodic Inspections	5,750	
	(b) As Specials	1,013	
	TOTAL		6,763
(2)	Number found to require treatment	5,271	
(3)	Number offered treatment	4,412	
(4)	Number actually treated	2,722	
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment ...	4,378	
(6)	Half days devoted to:—		
	(a) Periodic (School) Inspection	29	
	(b) Treatment	790	
	TOTAL		819
(7)	Fillings:—		
	Permanent Teeth	3,277	
	Temporory Teeth	33	
	TOTAL		3,310
(8)	No. of teeth filled:—		
	Permanent Teeth	2,385	
	Temporary Teeth	25	
	TOTAL		2,410
(9)	Extractions:—		
	Permanent Teeth	1,200	
	Temporary Teeth	4,272	
	TOTAL		5,472
(10)	Administration of general anæthetics for extraction		2,119
(11)	Orthodontics:—		
	(a) Cases commenced during the year ...		57
	(b) Cases carried forward from previous year ...		—
	(c) Cases completed during the year ...		—
	(d) Cases discontinued during the year ...		—
	(e) Pupils treated with appliances		—
	(f) Removable appliances fitted		—
	(g) Fixed appliances fitted		—
	(h) Total attendances		—
(12)	Number of pupils supplied with artificial teeth ...		15
(13)	Other operations:—		
	Permanent Teeth	567	
	Temporary Teeth	38	
			605